Trace of the

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John Vidal on toxins in food

So what's your poison?

The Week page 17

Paul Gascoigne: "I'm a disgrace"

The Week page 24



Bishops issue 'left-leaning' election briefing

Catholic church 'backs Blair'

Madeleine Bunting Religious Affairs Editor

N unprecedented pre-election briefing to be published by the Roman Catholic Church on Monday and distributed to every parish in England and Wales will cause controversy because of its perceived bias towards Tony Blair's Labour More than 1.5 million prac-

tising Catholics in England and Wales will be urged to put the principles of Catholic social teaching and biblical tradition — justice for the poor and the fundamental dignity and value of every indi-vidual — before personal interest as they approach the ballot box next year. The church admitted last

night that the briefing could be interpreted as "left-lean-ing", and one person involved in preparing the document said it would "definitely not be appreciated by some memers of the Government". The Common Good, a

unprecedented intervention оионс ше в Conference of Catholic Bishops of England and Wales, which has previously simply nominational statement in the run-up to elections. All parishes are advised to set aside six weeks to study it before the election.

The emphasis on social justice reflects the increasing concern, expressed on fre quent occasions by Cardinal Basil Hume and other church leaders, at the social disinteeration and marginalisation of the poor, long-term unemployed and refugees, presided over by the Conservatives in their last four governments.

The Catholic Church in England and Wales has given increasing prominence to its involvement in social justice issues over the past decade. traditionally associated with government policy on a wide on the arms trade.



Cardinal Hume: increasing worries over social justice

are not likely to be election issues - are mentioned but do not feature prominently.

Senior church sources accept that the document is bound to provoke controversy, but have gone out of their way to stress that it does not amount to an endorsement of any political party.
In a letter to Catholic news-

paper editors this week, the Rt Rev David Konstant, the working party which drew up the briefing under unusually tight secrecy, in-sisted that: "The bishops have no intention of engaging in party politics. We are not trying to tell people how to vote.
"Our primary aim is to emind and inform Catholics

of the teaching in this area. As a result they should be better able . . . to make a positive contribution to the forthcom But even the title of the briefing, The Common Good,

will be seized upon as an echo of themes which frequently appear in Mr Blair's speeches, such as the need to reinforce the mutual ties of obligation and responsibility, and reject individualism and materialism.

Cardinal Hume has been Abortion and medical ethics forthright in his criticisms of

range of issues, including asylum for refugees, home-lessness and education, and is pelieved to be sympathetic to Mr Blair's emphasis on

community. Monsignor Kieran Conry, bead of the Catholic Media Office, admitted the briefing "might be interpreted as left-leaning", but rejected claims of fashionableness. "Catholic social teaching is not an op-tional extra, it is integral to being a Catholic and is rooted deedly in the Old Testament deeply in the Old Testament when God said, 'I don't want sacrifices, I want justice for

One of those consulted in the preparation of the docu-ment commented: "Common Good will find some agreement with Labour and Liberal Democrat voters and will by some members of the Government."

Mgr Conry added that Com-mon Good reflected the teachmin Good reflected the teaching of Pope John Paul II, who has devoted three of his I2 encyclicals to outspoken criticism of the inadequacies of market capitalism as well as Marxism. In 1991 in Centesimus Annus, he castigated the "idolatry of the market" and is more important than "being", while warning about "super development" benefit-

ing only a small minority.

Of particular relevance to British politics in the wake of the succession of sleaze allegations, the Pope urges truthfulness in the relations between those governed, openness in public administration, impartiality in the service of the body politic, respect for the rights of politi-cal adversaries" (1993 Verita-

But the central theme of papal social teaching, which will feature prominently in Common Good and on which all political parties will be found wanting, is interna-tional development; both the Pope and Cardinal Hume have called for a cancellation of Third World debt and a ban



Dolores O'Riordan: said to have lost weight as a result of stress during US leg of tour

Singer's illness wrecks £6m tour

Clare Longrigg

OLORES O'Riordan, elfin lead singer of Irish band The Cranberries, has pulled out of a European tour amid rumours that she is suffer-

ing from anorexia. The band cancelled the European leg of its world tour, due to start this week. because Ms O'Riordan is too weak to perform. She is said to have stopped eating and her weight has dropped

dramatically.
The Cranberries' world tour hit the rocks when the band was forced to cut short its US tour in August. Ms O'Riordan, who has been dogged with colds and flu, became too exhausted to continue. to continue.

The band was planning to take a break for a year when the European tour was over, but Ms O'Riordan's health wouldn't stand up to a punishing 37date tour. More than 300,000 tickets had been sold for the tour, which was to have earned the Cranberries an estimated £6 million.

"She hasn't been well for a while," said the bend's publicist, Lindsey Holmes, yesterday. "She had a ski-ing accident a few years ago and her leg is still a bit funny. The tour is taking its toll. She has lost weight. I haven't seen a doctor's report. It could be stress; it could be anorexia.

The 24-year-old from Limerick was once too shy to sing facing the audience. She is now a multi-million airess and according to a survey this year earned an estimated £4.5 million in the previous 12 months.
Ms O'Riordan was yester-

day described by one interviewer as "angular, bony, and unbealthy looking".

Trouble with U2, The Week, page 18

'a romantic delirium for troubled times'

Drugs price war looms after controls are lifted

Sarah Whitebloom

PRICE war in the £1.3 billion a year overhe-counter medicine night after a Government agency declared that an agreement which fixes the prices of branded drugs, such

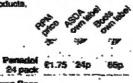
should go. Despite fears that thousands of local pharmacies could close, the Office of Fair Trading said it planned legal action to end fixed prices on branded, non-prescription medicines including painkillers, antiseptics and vitamins.
The Director-General of Fair Trading, John Bridgeman, said yesterday consum-ers could save £180 million a

cost of a packet of a dozen branded painkillers from £2 He claimed the old, the infirm and those with young families could be major bene-ficiaries. And he said: "I do not believe there will be a widespread closure of local

year if the agreement was abolished. This could cut the

A hearing on the case — Britain's only legal price-fix-ing deal since the end of the Net Book Agreement last year

Drug costs



ed fiver oil £3.59 £1.79 £2.95

Strepall 21.79 2890 21.45 Nurolen £1.39 £60p

 is unlikely before the end of 1997. But leading super-markets and big drug chains brinksmanship last night preparing to cut prices a of a court decision — if others take the plunge. However, with manufacturers set to litigate to block any price slashing, no one seemed t make the (Irst move.

The Community Pharmacy Action Group, said indepen-dent research showed that as many as a quarter of Britain's 12,000 pharmacies could close if the agreement was

scrapped.

OFT figures indicate that

Paul Gascoigne

the 2,293 products covered by the deal account for just 5 per cent of pharmacists' profits. But Mr Bridgeman did not dismiss the possibility that some could close. He said ending the agreement would able pharmacists to be "a lot

more entrepreneurial". Asda, whose outgoing chief executive, Archie Norman — now the Tory candidate for Tunbridge Wells — has led the attack on the agreement, was jubilant about the OFT's decision. The firm said it had no plans to start cutting prices, but would be very in-terested if someone else took action.

Safeway said it would not let its customers be disadvan-taged if others cut prices. Sainsbury said it would not change its prices until the law

Tesco welcomed the OFT's decision, and Superdrug said it saw it as the first step towards deregulating pharmacy controls.

Not all welcomed the decislon, however. Boots said the agreement was in the public interest, although it would consider its position if others cut prices. A spokesman said: "It is hard to see who will benefit — it won't be the people who started the ball rolling."

THE TAILOR OF PANAMA "le Carre shows what an extraordinarily witty writer he can be...spectacularly funny' Marcel Berlins, The Sunday Times "a book about legends and lies, about great loves and little betrayals, about the myth of truth and the consequences of deceptions As such it is a work of rare brilliance' an excoriating denunciation of hypocritical diplomacy, opportunistic high politics and exploitative journalism which explodes in an apocalyptic climax Gerald Kaufman, Sunday Telegraph

Go-ahead for sect school

John Carvel on proposals to offer state funding to Seventh Day Adventist Church

the schools quango recommended public funding for a secondary run by the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

The Funding Agency for Schools said yesterday it had approved plans for the John Loughborough school in Har-ingey, north London, to opt into the grant-maintained state system. The school would receive annual reve oue of about £500,000 to teach 250 pupils, plus a £130,000 capital grant to upgrade science and technology facilities.

Senior agency sources pre-dicted that Mrs Shephard would approve the proposal

managed by a religious sect is expected to be approved by Education Secretary Gillian Shephard after the schools quantum recom-

from the state system. The Seventh Day Adventist Church, founded in the US in the mid-19th century, has about 19,000 members in Britain. Its adherents await the second coming of Jesus Christ, reject the theory of evolution

and abstain from intoxicants.

The Church approached the funding agency with plans for a school for 5-16 year olds to enter the state system in April. The quango has given its backing on condition that the age range is limited to 11-16 and the integration date is postponed until September. The school does not exclude

white pupils, but the 150 on its current roll are all black or Asian. Parents pay up to £750 a term, but the church subsidises poorer familles.

A funding agency spokes man said it was satisfied the school was educationally and financially viable, although there will be a further check by inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education next month. The project was approved under rules to in-

crease parental choice. The agency did not make adgment about the suitability of religious groups as long as the national curriculum could be delivered. It would be up to Mrs Shephard to de cide religious questions. Jacky Tonge, Haringey's di-rector of education, said the

would be vulnerable to criticism from a wide turn to page 2, column 6

World News

reflect out of power in Nicarague in eekend whether voters want them

A scientific study showing evidence of a direct link. between smoking and cancer delivered a new blow to the tobacco industry.

Finance

admitted bringing disgrace upon himself but pledged to "come back. stronger and do my best for Rangers".

ment and Letters, 8; Obituaries, 7; Weather, 2 The Week



OUT NOW

Yeltsin's sacked general brings Russian theatre audience to their feet in spontaneous applause

Lebed stays centre-stage

David Hearst in Moscow

the man suppos-edly dumped in the political cold by President Boris Yeltsin on Thursday, entered the warm glow of Moscow's elegant Mali theatre last rapturous audience rising to its feet and applauding.

The general and Mrs Lebed elected to litmus-test the first night of their new lives with a high-profile outing to see Ivan the Terrible: A Tragedy in Five Acts, by Tolstoy — a drama about Old Russia's most infamous Tsar.

He was going to the performance, he said — in one quick deadpan soundbite earlier — "to study how to govern the state".

The small meticulously restored 19th century theatre was abuzz. By the time the grey-suited Gen Lebed ap-peared in the stalls, the audience burst out in spontaneous applause. By the time the en-tire column of grey-suited, culture-seeking bodyguards had also got into their second row seats, the audience was

The matronly attendant on the ground floor cloakroom could not contain herself: You remember when the telly showed every day shooting in Chechenia. Everyone was speaking about stopping the war. Well, he did stop the war. Now he's in disgrace."

Sacked as national security chief by the president, Gen Lebed is seen as a likely challenger for the Yeltsin throne.

The lights went down. The curtain went up on the Kremlin in the 16th century. Ivan the Terrible, like his succes-



General Lebed and his wife basking in the adulation of the crowd at a Moscow theatre yesterday PHOTOGRAPH DAVID SRAUCHU

tacked from south, east and

Ivan was conscience striken. He had killed too many people. And there was that

killed others. I have killed my own son. I have sinned more and gnashing of teeth. Enter the delegation from

the nobles' parliament in

sick. He ruled Russia for 50 | and looked at the spot coming | Ivan's feet. That much has body was quicker than a trivers. Plague-ridden, poverty from the gods. "I was not a changed in the Kremlin: ple bypass operation. He striken Russia was being at Tsar, I was a wolf, a man who members of the present leadership generally stay upright in President Yeltsin's

> Ivan offered to stand down, but the delegation urged him to stay, for the sake of Russia Tsarist times, who immediately threw themselves at The effect on Ivan's hobbling

ple bypass operation. He threw away his staff, crowned himself, and just to get back head off. Gen Lebed sat riveted. This

was the stuff. Direct action. Then entered Godonov wanting to be a Good Tsar.

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 6.00am Wictorian Ways of Destin, 7.00
 World News, 7.20 Holdey Outergs, 7.25
 Button Moon, 7.35 Mehrin and Maureen's Music-a-Grants, 7.35 Creery Crawles, 8.05 Run the Pats, 8.35 Dogs, 9.0720 and the Rest, 9.00 Blue Peter, 9.35 Gornge FB. 10.00 Dr Who: The Green Death, 10.30 Timelespers, 11.00 The Onedin Line, 11.50 Hot Chels, 12.00 Who? ID oit be Pudding? 12.30 EastEnders, 1.50
 Timelespers, 2.15 Esther, 2.45 Bodger and Badger, 3.00 Gordon The Gopher, 3.10 Court Duclais, 3.30 Blue Peter, 9.55
 Grange HB. 4.30 World Westher, 4.35 The Onedin Line, 5.30 Tracks, 6.00 Top of the Pops, 6.35 Dr Who: The Green Death, 7.50
 Dad's Army, 7.30 Are You Being Sarvec?
 3.00 Nord's House Park, 9.00 Berry HS.
 9.55 World Westher, 10.00 The Vicar of Doley, 10.30 Men Behaving Back, 11.00
 The Fest Show, 11.30 Bob Monkhouse on the Spot, 12.00 Top of the Pops, 12.36 Dr Who: The Green Death, 1.00 A Bit of Laurie and Fry, 1.30 A Metter of Resource.

BBC World

Radio 4

BSE will stay a burning issue until 2002

HE Government is to award five-year contracts to power compa-nies to burn cattle culled as part of the BSE crisis, in what will be the first official ac-imowledgment that the "mad cow" problem will last be-yond the turn of the century. As part of an increasingly desperate search for solutions to the disposal of culled cattle, the Government is under-stood to have offered to bend environmental protection rules to allow power stations to burn pulverised carcasses.
Following weeks of trials on experimental test rigs, the Department of Trade and Industry will soon award a five-

year deal to National Power, PowerGen or ScottishPower to carry out the disposal. It is unclear which company is likely to win the work. The disclosure follows an earlier revelation that the

Government is examining expensive and unorthodox ways to cold-store cattle older than 30 months culled in the The measures are being ungently studied even though foreign governments such as Austria's have offered incinerator capacity to relieve the 400,000 strong backlog of cattle designated for culling.

ated ships and containers

Ministers have considered using Britain's fairly scarce incineration capacity to solve the crisis, but believe this would be highly costly. The power station plan would at least provide electricity from the crisis. Whitehall sources say the generating companies have raised concerns about the

project and have asked to be indemnified against any claims that might arise from public health worries, or for damage to their stations. Although power stations burn fuel at very high tem-peratures, it remains unclear whether all traces of ESE would be destroyed. The com-panies will probably also seek assurances that there is no

assurances that there is no threat to the health and safety of their staff.

Other technical details also need to be resolved first. Under current legislation, the power generators would need

continued from page 1

range of religious groups if it turned down similar requests for opting in from small schools. "In my formal objec-tion to Mrs Shephard, I will say this is a waste of public money in a borough with huge needs for spending on schools," she said. But Sir Robert Balchin,

chairman of the Grant Maintained Schools Foundation, said the school was doing an excellent job. "All the evisible, hard-working people with the kind of family values that all parents require in a

Local consultations are nearing completion for the Al Furgan school, a Muslim pri-mary in Birmingham, to sub-mit plans to the funding agency. Four proposals for Muslim schools are being de-veloped in the London borough of Brent, and the Guru Nanak school in Hillingdon wants grant-main-

The weather in Europe lidday today 1111 HIGH 1032 1024 **(21)** © Eulsist 6.00am World News and Westher. 6.20 Britan in View. 7.00 World News and Westher. 7.20 Window on Europe. 8.00 World Headlines and Westher. 8.05 World Focus: Everyman Science Friction. 9.00 World Headlines and Westher. 9.05 World Focus: Around The World in 80 Days. 10.00 World Headlines and Westher. 9.03 Time Out. Tomorrow's World. 11.00 World News and Westher. 11.30 Time Out. The Travel Show. 12.00 World Headlines and Westher. 12.00 World Headlines and Westher. 12.05 World Focus: Timewatch. 3.00 World Heport. 2.00 World Headlines. 3.00 World News and Westher. 3.20 This West. 4.00 World News and Westher. 8.30 Timeout: Film 96 with Barry Norman. 5.00 World Headlines and Westher. 5.05 World Focus: Corresponders. 8.00 World News and Westher. 8.20 Ethan In Wow. 9.00 World Headlines 10.00 World News and Westher. 7.20 This Week. 8.00 World News and Westher. 8.20 Ethan in Wow. 9.00 World Headlines 10.00 World News and Westher. 10.30 Time Out: Filewis India Focus: Firston. 10.00 World News and Westher. 10.30 Time Out: Filewis India Focus: Horton. 10.00 World News and Westher. 12.25 This Week. 1.00 World News and Westher. 12.26 World Focus: Hortzon. 12.00 World Focus: Hortzon. **@**/* Key Sunshine and ---- Warm front showers Occluded front · · · · · Trough Around the world

Forecast for the cities

Television and radio — Saturday SSSem FEJS: Lulu Belle, 8-20 Code University, 10.00 Charakya, 10.35 Network East, 11.20 Bollywood Or Bust 11.50 Wildlife On Two, 12.15 Film 98 With Barry Noman, 12.45 Fill-Be Road To Singapore, 2.10 FEJSE Meet Me In Las Veges, 4.00 FEJSE Vive Las Veges, 5.20 TOTP 2, 6.05 Findles, 7.00 News And Sport, 7-15 Assignment, 8.00 What The Papers Say, 8.10 Snoolear: Grand Pro. 8.00 Hove I Got News For You, 9.20 Screen Twort Lowing, 11.05 Video Diames, 12.05 International Golt World Metatropay, 12.45 Footour, Grand Pro., 1.50 Weather, 1.55 Close.

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Gen Lebed on

Ivan the Terrible

almost taking notes) it took

him another 14 years and one probable murder to do it.

After all that, Russia was

plunged into another period

of plague, economic catastro-

Lebed loses Chechenia, page

to study

The Movie Channel 8.00 The Ng From Left Field. 8.00 Tripos. 10.00 Rockie of the Year. 12.00 The Big Game. 2.00 Major League 8.4.00 The Scott. 6.00 Angels. 8.00 The Statiow. 10.00 Outbrels. 12.10 Scatter Cop. 145 Outbrels. 12.10 Scatter Cop.

6.00 Mountain Family Robinson, 8.00 Babe Righ, 10.00 The Cat And The Carany, 12.00 The Sardot, 2.00 For Love Alone, 4.00 Pocationtais: The Legend, 6.00 Rough Diamonds, 8.00 Et little Big League, 10.00 Fatal Instinct, 11.30 Secret Games 3, 1.08 Back in Action, 2.25 Mindwarp, 4.00 Bind Justice.

4.00 High Scoaty. 5.00 The Lost World. 3.00 Return from the Filver Krisi. 10.00 king of the Hill. 11.40 White Mischlef. 1.30 Reap the Wind Wind. 3.35 Daxidy Longlegs. 5.45 Coss. Sky Sports

9 Agra
7.00 Glette World Sport Special, 7.30
American Sports Cavalicade, 8.30 Racing
News, 9.00 The Rudby Cash, 10.00 Golf:
Watt Dieney World Classic Day 2, 12.00
Sports Sciuntay, 5.30 NHL - Power Week,
6.30 ASP Surfing, 7.30 Frish Line, 8.00
Ringside Boxing Dr. The Road - Live, 11.00
Kok Boxing, 12.00 World Of Speed And
Besuly, 12.30 Major Lesque Basebal
World Series 1 Live, 4.00 Close,
Euroesport Eurosport

Astra/Eutelsat Astra/Eutelest
7.30 Windsurång, 8.00 Eurofun, 8.30
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Women's Termis, 4.00 Termis, 6.00 Tractor
Pulling, 7.00 Live Cycling, 10.00 Golf,
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Paphasi. 10.00 Designing Women. 10.30
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The Lagendary Journeys. 3.00 Hercules:
The Lagendary Journeys. 3.00 Hercules:
Superstars. 3.00 Pacific Blast. 8.30
America's Dumbest Criminats. 6.30
America's Dumbest Criminats. 6.30
America's Dumbest Criminats. 6.30
America's Dumbest Criminats. 8.30
Cops. 9.30 Cop. Files. 10.00 Stand And
Deliver. 10.30 Revelations. 11.00 The
Movie Show 11.30 Forewer Kinght. 12.30
Dream On. 1.00 Cornedy Rutes. 1.30 The
Edge. 2.00 Ht Mix Long Play.

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1.00 Design. 1.00 Stand

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1.00 Design. 1.00 Stand

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 7.00 Give Us A Clue, 7.30 Going For Gold.
 7.55 The Suffigers, 10.00 Neighbours, 12.00 EastEndare, 2.55 Minder, 4.00 Robins Nest, 4.30 Sorry 5.05 Carbon Time, 5.15 The A-Tearn, 6.15 Buffiseye, 6.45 Some Mothers Do Yes Tim, 7.29 Whotever Happened To The Liegh Lodg? 8.05 Shoesting, 9.10 Kolek, 11.10 Mierri Vos. 12.10 Cellan, 1.10 The Album Show.
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11.30 From Our Own Correspondent, 12.00
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Shipping Forecast, 5.51 Bels on Sunday, 5.55 BBC World Service con be received in England on MW 848 kHz (465m) and in Western Europe on LW 188 kHz (1515m) 8.00em Newscoy. 8.30 Science in Action. 7.00 World News. 7.15 The World Today, 7.30 The New Europe. 7.45 Global Concerns. 8.00 World News. 8.18 From The Weddes. 8.30 People and Politics. 9.00 World News. 8.10 World of Faith. 9.16 A Joly Good Show. 10.00 World News. 8.18 News. 10.05 World Surriess Report. 10.15 Your vote, Your Government. 10.30 Discovery Astra/Intelsal.
 4.00 Solutiley Stack: Disaster: Lesking Nightmen, 4.20 Patal Error. 8.00 Roong Torrari. 5.30 Service and Sunwa. 6.00 Pack of Cards. 6.30 Point of No Return. 7.00 Deady Doors. 7.30 Total Collapse. 8.00 Fight Deck. 8.30 Wonders of Weather. 9.00 Basisiolide. It me Bratis for Italy: Part One. 10.00 Settlefields it. The Batis for Italy. Part Two. 11.00 Unexplained. 12.00 Close. Television and radio — Sunday

8.30em Joe 90. 8.55 Playdays. 8.15 Blass.
9.30 Jackanory Gold. 9.50 X-Men. 10.10
Etk The Cat. 10.30 The key Shey Spider.
10.40 Mask. 11.05 She To Show. 11.35
Garage HB. 12.00 The Demon Headnester.
12.25 Shell World. 12.45 Shooting Sters.
1.15 The Sunday Show. 2.00 The O Zone.
2.30 Around Westminster. 3.00 International
Coff. World Matchplay And Shooter Gend.
Prix. 6.35 The Natural World. 7.46 Sher Triet
Voyager. 8.30 Promised Land. 9.20 The
Money Programme. 10.00 Cooper's Pun.
10.30 Where's Shis This Week's 11.00
Shooter: Grond Pix. 12.00 International
Gold: World Matchplay. 12.40 FB.Me
Dragstrip Grid. 1.55 Weether. 2.00 Close.
3.00 Learning Zone. 7.90 Close.

BBC Prime

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7.00am Pride and Prejudice, 8.00 World
7.00am Pride and Prejudice, 8.30 Jonny Briggs,
8.45 Bitss, 9.00 Bodger and Badger, 9.15
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Many Men. 10.00 Bits Peter, 10.35 Grange
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Cranies, 3.35 Bitss, 4.10 Pun the Pist,
4.35 Bits Peter, 5.00 George Hz, 5.35 The
House of Bitot, 6.25 The Great Antiques
Hurt, 7.05 The Life and Tirres of Lord
Mourgestern, 9.00 World News, 8.20 The
Europeans, 8.30 Wildlie, 8.00 993, 10.00 A
Very Polish Practice, 11.35 Chrains, 19.30
Songs of Pasies, 1.05 A Very Peterlier
Practice, 2.00 Duccic: The Rucelei Madams.

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7.00em World News and Weather, 7.20 The
Last Days of the Well, 9.00 World News and
Weather, 8.25 Inche Elevineer Report, 9.00
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Radio 4

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Papers. 10.30 Morning Service. 11.15 The
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Seriat. The Mysteries of Udolpho. 4.30 Pick
of the Week. 5.15 Anglysis, 6.00 Goefing en
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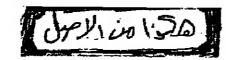
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Madonna

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Sea Lucy MA NATIONAL TENNET の表情を





BSE is only a symptom of the insanity that is affecting food producers. Technology, it seems, is running out of control.

What's your poison?

The Week page 17

Robert Dewey Hoskins trailed her for five

years. Jalled in March for ten individual".



Diana

Followed by Liam Whitney and Klaus Wagner, left.

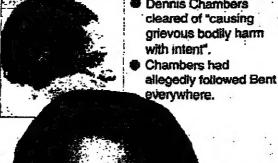
Whitney bound over to keep the peace. Court injunction taken out against Wagner.



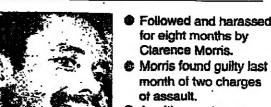
Margaret Bent

with intent".

Chambers had everywhere.



Perry Southall





New law to give stalkers five years in jail

Duncan Campbell looks at legislation that will also affect journalists and abusive neighbours

nounced by the Government yesterday. The move comes after growing pressure for action from victims of stalkers, women's

organisations and the police. Two new criminal offences and a new civil procedure will be put forward in a Pri-vate Member's Bill and are likely to have overwhelming support. The moves were broadly walcomed by antistalking campaigners and the

opposition parties yesterday. Yesterday's announcement is an indication of how how far the perception of stalking has changed in the last five years. From being an issue that the public was only dimly aware of, stalking has now been recognised as a source of great distress not only to people in the public eye but to thousands of people who have felt that the law has

let them down badly. The new law, when it comes into effect, may be used not only against persistent stalkers but also against door-step-ping journalists, abusive neighbours and racial

Members of the intelligence

Notes warning

of plots against

Diana were left

DIANA, Princess of Wales, has had been fol-

lowed by at least two stalkers: Klaus Wagner, 37, who

months to warn her of "plots" against her and a 36-year-old Irishman, Liam Whitney, with a psychiatric

history. Mr Whitney broke

into the grounds of Ken-sington Palace, where she

lives, twice in three months, and told police he

was "staying with Diana".

He was bound over to keep

the peace for a year and fined £50.

Accused of

'behaving like

queen bee that

dresses to kill'

PERRY Southall, aged 20, endured an eight month

campaign of terror by Clar-

ence Morris, a convicted rap-ist, who was found guilty last

month of two charges of as-sault. The court ruled that the

was tantamount to a physical

sentence. The case was highly contro-

versial because of the sexist remarks of the defence barris-ter, who accused the victim of

"behaving like a queen bee that dresses to kill". The bar-

assault Morris, 37, is awaiting

mental torture she suffered

almost daily

shadowed her for six

2008 2003

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22

TALKERS face up to from prosecution if they are five years in jail acting in pursuit of their under legislation and duties, as will those who act 'reasonably and necessarily'

as part of their work.
David Maclean, the Home Office minister who announced the measures, said the legislation would be introduced as a Private Member's Bill to expedite its passage through Parliament. It was felt that if it was included in the upcoming Crime Bill, the Opposition, then it would

not proceed so swiftly. "One of the difficulties of the present criminal law is the need to prove that the stalker intended to have a particular effect on his victim," said Mr Maclean. Under these laws it would not be necessary to prove intent, simply that any reasonable person would have known that his actions would

affect his victim." Mr Maclean said the civil procedure had been introduced for people who wanted to stop harassment but did not necessarily want their

harasser jailed. This often applied in the

Wagner followed her on an almost daily basis trying to shove notes into her hand outside her London gym.

Throughout his high profile stalking the father of three insisted he was not a

tary on stalkers, describing how he favoured leaving letters under the wind-

screen of her car as the best way to warn her of "plots". She succeeded in shaking

him off with a court injunc-

tion and the case did not go

He also tried to communi-

cate with her by standing in

ards of newspaper clippings showing pictures of the

Queen, with the numbers

rister. Denis Stanton, was reported to the Bar Council and rebuked by the judge for remarks that were critical of Ms Southall for allegedly modeling herself on the "over exposed and sexually active" Baywatch character played by Pamela Anderson in the television series. The judge declared that the remarks were an insult to Ms Southall.

She was subjected to 200 in-

She was subjected to 200 incidents and confrontations.

Morris had threatened her

women's underwear into the reception of the dental prac-

The judge concluded the

case saying: "Women have the

right to dress however they wish and it should not be seen

twice with a wallpaper

scraper and had thrown

tice where she worked.

as an open invitation to

666 emblazoned across them.

front of the gym with bizarre home-made plac-

"weirdo" and even ap-peared in a TV documen-

Maggie O'Kane reviews four cases

a love letter, he said. The majority of stalkers are former partners or work colleagues of the victim. Others have an obsession with a well-known public figure and follow them around the

country.

Mr Maclean said it would be up to the police and the Crown Prosecution Service to determine whether someone's behaviour was "reasonable and necessary" if, for instance, someone objected to a door-to-door salesman or journalist knocking on their

The bill received an unreserved welcome from Evonne von Heussen, co-founder and director of Nash, the national anti-barassment campaign which was founded three years ago.
"This is most welcome

news which will make every victim happy," said Ms von "This bill is a triumph for all the families of the victims who have died at the hands of

stalkers. Ms von Heussen, who was a stalker's victim for 17 years, said that when she and her daughter, Kirstein, first started campaigning on the issue, MPs and some Home Office officials did not know what stalking was and

ment agencies will be exempt | could be an unwanted bunch | But she warned against be- | tims is hard to describe."

constantly and

seemed to take

joy out of it'

DENNIS Chambers was cleared last month of

"causing grievous bodily harm with intent". Mr Cham-bers, aged 37, of no fixed address, had been accused by

Margaret Bent of stalking her.
"Tean't believe this is hap-pening," a tearful Ms Bent

said as she left the court. "He

had been following me around constantly and seemed to take

a lot of joy out of doing it."
The case was thrown out of court after Judge Quentin
Campbell directed the jury to acquit Mr Chambers. The judge said it was "extremely

He would 'slice

her from ear to

ear unless she

OBERT Dewey Hoskins, aged 40, followed Ma-

donna across the US for five years before he was jailed

for 10 years in March 1996. Madonna, 38, told a court how Hoskins had threat-ened to "slice her from ear

to ear" unless she married him. She told a court in Los Angeles she felt "incredibly

violated" when he staked out her Hollywood man-

haunted by nightmares about him. A loner and

sion, and that she had been

about him. A loner and sitting in front of him and homeless, Hoskins was shot that's what he wants."

married him'

'He followed me difficult' to prove intent in matters of psychiatric or psychological harm.

Offences and defences

☐ It will be illegal to: 'Use words or behaviour, on more than one occasion, which would put the victim in fear of violence." Maximum penalty: five years' imprisonment,

unlimited fine, or both. ☐ "Use words or behaviour, on more than one occasion, which would cause the victim to be harassed, alarmed or distressed.'

they are carried out in lieving that the problem was now solved. "Having laws against rape and domestic violence has not stopped them. There are no miracle

She claimed the proposed law was tougher than existing anti-stalking legislation in north America and Australia. Diana Lamplugh, mother of the missing estate agent Suzy Lamplugh, and the director of the trust named after her

cures." she said.

plans.
"The proposed bill is extremely sensible," said Mrs.
Lamplugh, whose 25-year-old This often applied in the cases of relationships which had broken up and where one partner could not accept that with nearly 8,000 victims, she stalking. The misery inflicted

Ms Bent bad told the Inner

stress. She claimed he fol-

calls to her Brixton home. She claimed Mr Chambers

had been following her since

1992, and that he had come to

the cafe where she worked,

armed with a 10-inch knife. Mr Chambers, a delivery

and conducted his own de-

fence. Sitting on the bench normally reserved for law-yers, a few feet from Ms Bent,

he cross-examined her on her claims, "My mind is not my

own at the moment," she told

and wounded by a security

guard when he tried to break into her mansion for

the second time in 1995. The judge recommended that Hoskins receive psychi-

in court as "an extremely dangerous individual".

After one break-in, Ma-donna said she was told by

her security guard, "he wa

there to take me away, he wanted to be my husband".

Madonna failed in her

his trial. Giving her evi-dence she said: "I feel in-

is sitting across from me

legal battle not to testify at

credibly disturbed that the man who threatened my life

and he has somehow made his fantasies come true. I'm

Speaking at a trust seminar I son, who earlier this year in London, Mrs Lamplugh said she was asking the Home Office to set up a helpline and network for victims to provide mutual support for each

Maximum penalty: six

months' imprisonment,

a £5,000 fine, or both.

□ Restraining

injunction will be

available through

civil courts, a breach

penalty of five years'

imprisonment or an

unlimited fine, or both.

☐ The actions can be

defended in criminal

and civil proceedings if

would be a criminal offence with a maximum

Labour MP Janet Ander-

made an unsuccessful attempt to get her own stalking bill accepted, said she was

pleased the Government had listened. "Assuming it meets our

and it will go on to the statute book," she said of the Bill. The Government had claimed there were too many legal loopholes in Ms Anderson's proposal and did not support Shadow Home Secretary

statutory authority. Jack Straw was also guarded in his support: "Effective For the lower level action to tackle stalking could already have been law if the criminal offence and the civil action, there is a Government had not churi-ishly blocked Janet Anderdefence if someone is reasonably and son's bill last May. But now necessarily in pursuit of they have taken this issue over, the Government must a business, trade or profession, or other lawful act".

the interests of national

prevention, detection or

investigation of crime

by law enforcement

officers; or under

security; for the

fairs spokesman Alan Beith criticised the way the law was being introduced. "This matter is far too urgent to be left to a Private Members bill." he

The police have long cam-paigned for legislative action

there will be consensus Police Pederation and the across the floor of the House Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) welcomed the news last night, although interpreting the law may pres-ent the service with delicate problems of interpretation.

Maria Wallis, the assistant Chief Constable of Sussex, who speaks on stalking for Acpo, said: "Police intervention needs to commence at an early stage to ensure ade-quate protection for victims." Tracey Sant, victim of the first stalker jailed for inflicting psychological harm, welcomed the bill.

Ms Sant, aged 28, was hounded by former service-

give it the priority it man Anthony Burstow, aged Liberal Democrat home af-36, before he was jalled in

"I am happy to hear that finally victims are going to have a light at the end of the tunnel." said Ms Sant. The bill will apply to England and Wales but will con-tain provisions appropriate to

daughter, welcomed the London crown court that she had lost weight, lost sleep, felt ill and had started smoking because of the psychological lowed her home every day and made thousands of telephone van driver, denied the charges atric care during his sen-tence after he was described

If you'd like to know more about our unique whiskey, write to us for a free booklet at the Jack Daniel Distillery, Lynchburg, Tennessee 37352 USA. HOW MANY MEN does it take to keep Mr. Jack Daniel's statue clean?

The answer is, there's never a shortage of folks here at our distillery willing to give Mr. Jack a good scrubbing. You see, our founder was a proud man. He was proud of his Tennessee Whiskey and the gold medals it won. We're proud of the same things—and of Mr. Jack. And we're nearly as particular about keeping his statue tidy as we are of making Jack Daniel's Whiskey the way he did. One sip, we believe, will explain why we feel the way we do.

JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

News in brief

Parents condemn school ban on boy, 5

bit a teacher have condemned the school's decision to expel him. Paul and Maureen Fedarb, who are appealing against the move, blame their son David's tantrums on an attack by a dog when he was a toddler.

David was sent home from Burrough Green Primary near Newmarket, Cambridgeshire, after biting his learning support assistant in a row over washing his hands after going to the toilet. Staff and governors said the incident was the final straw after a string of attacks on teachers and pupils, including the assault on the headmaster and the stabbing of a classmate with

The local education authority has offered him a place at a special school but Mr Fedarb, aged 36, said he did not believe that was the answer. He added: "We're determined to appeal against the decision to exclude him. We'd like to see him going back to Burrough Green, it's his local school. We don't feel they've given David ample opportunity to show any potential at all."

Hume urges Derry calm

SDLP leader John Hume last night appealed to nationalist residents of Londonderry not to stage a counter-demonstration to today's lovalist Apprentice Boys parade in the city. In a last ditch attempt to defuse a potentially dangerous situation, the Foyle MP said the Apprentice Boys should be allowed to march unhindered — and he believed the vast majority of nationalists in the city agreed. If the residents of the Catholic Bogside wanted to protest they should "either make a public statement or do it on a different day," he said. Whatever they did should be done "in a way that makes sure there is no trouble." he added. However, the city was tense last night pending an RUC decision on whether the parade around the city walls would be allowed to go ahead.

Drug dealer 'loses' child

A FOSTER mother has been awarded interim custody of the daughter of a Jamaican woman due to be deported after serving a juil sentence for dealing in crack cocaine. Helen Osborne, aged 40. from Perth, challenged Perth Sheriff John McInnes' ruling that four-year-old Fiona Matthan, should be returned to her mother Althea, aged 21. Yesterday, three judges at the Court of Session in Edinburgh ruled that the child should remain in Mrs Osborne's care until her future is decided after a detailed investigation by a sheriff. Miss Marthan, who has served her jail sentence for drug dealing, was in court under escort from prison where she is awaiting deportation to Jamaica. However, the court said the Home Office "would have to bear in mind" that she should not be deported in the meantime if she continued to oppose Mrs Osborne's custody claim.

Channel 5 in Easter launch

CHANNEL 5 is to launch on Easter Sunday, March 30, next year, it was confirmed yesterday. Britain's last mainstream terrestrial channel secured approval from the Independent Television Com-mission to delay its original launch date by three months to provide more time to visit 13 million homes to retune video recorders to ensure its signal does not interfere with them. The channel expects to reach 65 to 70 per cent of homes on the first day Increasing to 85 per cent by the end of 1997. - Andrew Culf

Greens plead to drop bypass

THE controversial £76 million Salisbury bypass will do irreparable damage to the area, environment groups told the Government yesterday. In an open letter to Transport Secretary Sir George Young and Environment Secretary John Gummer urging the scheme to be dropped, 10 organisations said the impact of the 11mile scheme was not justified on strategic grounds, could not solve the Wiltshire city's traffic problems, and "would do great and irreparable damage to the environment and landscape setting of Salisbury and to the wildlife and ecology of one of Europe's finest chalk stream systems". The groups involved include Friends of the Earth, the World Wide Fund for Nature UK, Transport 2000 and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Punter forgot & m win

A PUNTER who won £343,636 and then disappeared has turned up — unaware he was a winner. Brian Greene, a hotel chef in his 30s, walked out of a Ladbrokes betting shop in Birmingham on Saturday after watching the last of the six horses in his £1 each way accumulator romp home. But Ladbrokes could not find him until he returned to the Sparkhill shop last night—to make another bet. "I can't believe that Ladbrokes have been so honest he said. A company spokesman explained: "He had apparently changed his mind about one of his selections at the last minute and forgot that a 20-1 winner was his choice. When he didn't say anything the shop manageress gave him the good news and he



Footballers' wives: the cars, the houses, the fancy frocks, the lonely nights wondering...

Man's body is believed to have fallen from wheel well as aircraft prepared for landing at Heathrow

Jet stowaway died of cold

Vivek Chaudhary

MAN believed to have been a stow-away, who fell out of an aircraft heading for Heathrow Airport, died of hypothermia. a post-mortem examination revealed yesterday.

The body of the man, who has not been named, was discovered on Wednesday in a disused gasworks in Richmond, Surrey — six miles from the airport. He is be-lieved to have hidden in the undercarriage housing.
He suffered multiple injuries consistent with a fall from a great height. Police are now trying to establish

national aged 19, whose fam-ily have yet to be informed of his death, was travelling with another stowaway, also an In-dian national, who was dis-covered wandering near Heathrow's Terminal 4 on

Sunday.

According to some reports the two men hid in the under-carriage housing while the aircraft was at Delhi airport. The 19 year-old died during the 10-hour flight, where tem peratures in the well housing the undercarriage can fall to minus 60 C, with a lack of oxygen. It is believed that he fell out of the undercarriage

well as the aeroplane pre-pared for landing.

The body was discovered in

airport, at a point where are now dealing with his planes would be lowering request for leave to enter the their undercarriages for final UK.

His friend was found last Sunday, also suffering from hypothermia, hiding under the belly of a British Airways plane, and was detained by airline staff.

He was described as being poorly and almost unable to

The man, who has not been amed, was treated in hospital and is being held at Harmondsworth detention centre, close to the airport, where he has applied for leave to enter the United Kingdom. A spokesman for the Immi-

request for leave to enter the UK.

We are still trying to es-

tablish whether the two men were travelling together but there is no suggestion that the dead man was pushed out of the aeroplane. This is a very difficult case because there is a lot of emotional sensitivities

involved." British Airways has launched an investigation into how the two men man-aged to hide on the aircraft. The case has highlighted

the perils of aeroplane stowaways, most of whom tend to conceal themselves in the undercarriage area, putting

The number of aircraft stowaways is still relatively small, averaging between three to four cases each year. Most either end up dying of hypothermia or dying of severe injuries after being mangled by the undercar-

riage after take-off. There are however, no offical statistics on the number of aircraft stowaways who are

discovered each year.
Kieran Daly, of Flight International magazine, said: "It's a very risky business and, quite often, those who at-

tempt it end up dying.

There is plenty of space in the well of the undercarriage but there is a fair chance that death after an Aeroflot plane

whether the man, an Indian | a part of Richmond which lies | gration Department said: "He | their | lives | at | risk. | or be crushed by the modernational aged 19, whose fam- | under the flightpath to the has been interviewed and we | The number of aircraft | carriage While the number of carriage. While the number of stowaways is relatively small it is a problem that has been going on for some years

> Most airlines now carry out stringent headcounts and searches of cargo hold areas before aeroplanes take off.
>
> Mr Daly added: "#s virtually impossible for a stow-away to board a plane or hide

existopher Read

clos Angeles

in the hold. "But with airports being such large places, its much easier for them to sneak into the undercarriage well."

The last such stowaway to

you will either freeze to death | landed at Rome in September.

Moving tale of the family from hell

Sarah Boseley hears a mother's cry for help

MOTHER of eight who has been forced to move house 11 times in 10 years is facing possible eviction again after neighbours have launched a petition to drive out the "family from hell".

Jenny White — whose boys are banned from supermarkets and buses — says they are neither mad nor bad. but suffering from attention deficit disorder.

Neighbours have objected

riot all over our front gardens and climb over our sheds. They even chased my cat with a big stick. When they go to the local shops they unleash any dogs tied up. Their sole aim is to find trouble. We want them out."

Little terrors . . . Jenny White with three of her sons Paul, Leo and Billy who, she says, suffer from attention deficit disorder PHOTOGRAPH RUSSELL SACH had to move so often because neighbours have kept a log of all the things the kids do.

seems the old neighbours tell the new ones so we start day one at a new place facing hostility from the neighbours."

nine, is about to start at a special school and his mother says he may need to go on

Ms White has a letter from

self-esteem".

She admits she cannot con trol her children. She said: When they watched Rambo they became fascinated by social services confirming knives and guns. They would that the children's problems steal my cutlery knives and

to the children breaking saplings, kicking milk bottles
and smashing car windows.

One said: "They have rum

One said: "They have rum

One said: "They have rum

One said: "We have have rum

One said: "We have have rum

One said: "We have rum

O

Mary Poppins. "The next day they were running over the roofs of the houses. They watched the musical Oliver and started pick-pocketing social services confirming knives and guns. They would and when they saw Mutant house to another. 'I just want that the children's problems steal my cutlery knives and Ninja Turtles they went out to live in a happy home with include "aggressive, disrup put them in their socks. They side and managed to lift up a the children," she said.

Ms White says she would like her latest neighbours to take into account the boys problems. She is tired of being moved from one council

Goldsmith's Referendum Party 'aiding Labour win'

As the new party gathers for its first rally, its supporters seem not to be much worried that they could help elect Tony Blair. Michael White reports

HE Referendum Party's general election could ment more sympathetic to European Integration than John Major's, key advisers to Sir James Goldsmith admit-

ted last night.
As a predicted 3,000 supporters gathered for their first party conference in Brighton today, Sir James promised to use his speech this afternoon to expose the "consistent history of decep-tion" over Europe and to force an early referendum on

federalism.

But he faced mockery from rivals on the right and accusations of myth-peddling from the European Movement as well as charges of intolerance against those who have disagreed with him.

Arriving to a VIP newsmedia scrum at the Grand

Hotel on the seafront, the bil-lionaire financier was ques-tioned about why some repor-ters for the Daily Mirror and Daily Telegraph had been denied credentials to attend the

He insisted that any bona-fide journalist could attend: We seek a debate." He responded to John Ma-

age Tory hopes of a fifth term. | 0.5 per cent of the vote, the "It's not for him to decide. It's Goldsmith forces could cost not for us. Let the people de-cide," Sir James said.

The self-declared aim of the party, in which £20 million of Goldsmith money will be in-vested if needed, is to force a full-scale anti-federalist referendum and then dissolve itself. Mr Major has so far conceded no more than a referendum if he seeks to join a single currency, which Sir James dismisses as "only a trivial point" compared with sovereignty which has al-

But his supporters are all too aware that they could help elect Tony Blair by costing the Tories marginal seats. Lord McAlpine, now a Gold-smith ally, said: "I'm not scared of it [a Blair win]. I

'Unless we get the issue of Europe sorted we might as well be talking about village whist drives for that is all we shall be allowed to talk about.'

actually think that's probably what would happen. I think John Major and his Cabinet should be scared of it and I think that they should actually announce there is going to be a referendum."

Another supporter. Thatcher's former economic adviser, Sir Alan Walters, was unperturbed. "If that did happen it would be a Labour government with a slim majority and looking over its shoulder all the time."

Lord Archer yesterday

the Tories four seats.
Sir James and his leading supporters, many of them

well-to-do London figures from the Tory right, marked the start of their conference last night with a series of din-ners for the 180 candidates already chosen and for friends and what Sir James calls "opinion-formers" in the media. The actor, Edward Fox, unveiled the first of a

series of posters proclaiming "Britannia Does Not Rule Okay" and said: "Unless we get the issue of Europe sorted out we might as well be talk-ing about village whist drives because that is all we shall be allowed to talk about."

Along the seafront, Doctor Alan Sked, head of the rival UK Independence Party, pre-pared to unveil four defectors from the Goldsmith camp, while in Maidstone, Michael Howard, targeted by the Ref-erendum Party in Folkestone lespite his Euro-sceptic credentials, publicly welcomed back the former MP, Tim Brinton, from Sir James's

Doctor Sked is holding his wn public meeting in Brighton today to publicise his argument that without total withdrawal from the EU a Goldsmith-style referendum would leave Britain "in exact-ly the same mess it is in regardless of the outcome of

Today's conference promises to be as much a rally as a traditional party conference with speeches by leading supporters. including Christo-pher Booker, the journalist, John Aspinall, the zookeeper, and Charles de Gaulle MEP, an ally of Sir James's Euro-group in Strashours

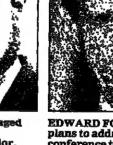
group in Strasbourg.

Mr Major and his colleagues have dismissed the Referendum Party as a oneman band. But at least one jor's dismissal of his embryo again predicted that at least party, which claims 50,000 20 Tory seats could be at risk election is expressing concern while the Economist magaston" that would not dam-

Supporters



PETER de SAVARY, aged 51. Flamboyant businessman and sailor. who owns a shipyard in Cornwall. He has warned that creating a European superstate could lead to civil war



plans to address the conference today on "why referenda are part of the British tradition". His support for Sir James led to widespread publicity for the Referendum Party



JOHN ASPINALL, aged 70. zookeeper and owner of a Mayfair gambling club, he has described the European issue as "the most important question since 1939" for Britain

Michael Spicer, a leading | contrast to his anti-federal-Euro-sceptic, who voted 37 times against the Maastricht Treaty and was one of 97 Tories to support Bill Cash's Referendum Bill in June, faces a challenge in Worces-

tershire South. He said that his offence was point out that Sir James's book, The Trap, emphasised European federalism, anti-Americanism and protectionism in its French edition "in the council of ministers.



EDWARD FOX, aged 59. Re



VISCOUNT TONYPANDY, Speaker of the House of Commons who used to be known as George Thomas. He has spoken out about domination by Brussels and the threat to UK sovereignty

ism when he visits these islands".

Mr Spicer said: "He's angry. It's a personal thing because I have pointed out just how uncritically federalist he is in France." In its anti-Goldsmith statement, the that he had been the first to European Movement denounced a series of myths, including the assertion that European law is created by 20 EU commissioners and not by

Testy reply from Santer to challenge for televised debate on Europe

ACQUES Santer, the President of the European Commission, gave a dusty answer in Brussels yesterday to Sir James Goldsmith's demand in newspaper advertisements for a televised debate on Europe, writes Stephen

Showing an unusual degree of testiness, the normally avuncular Mr Santer, a former Prime Minister of Luxembourg, pointed to Sir James's poor record of atten-dance at the European Parliament — where he sits as a French MEP — and said that if he wanted to debate Europe that was the place to do it. Sir James's advertisement

the culmination of a week of single and double page spreads in national news-papers in the run up to today's Referendum Party conference in Brighton threw down a challenge to Mr

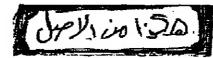
It said that only by holding a live debate on British televi-sion could the issues the party had raised be fully de-bated and the truth publicly established. "We look for-ward to Mr Santer's reply." it

Pointing out that Sir James was an "eminent" member of the European Parliament, — leader of the all-French 13member grouping of his L'Autre Europe part, Mr Santer said that was the best place for him to raise his

concerns.

He added that Sir James had not turned up for a recent debate on the future of Europe but would have another opportunity to do so next week when Mr Santer himself would address the Parliament.

Sir James is not known as an assiduous attender of the monthly sessions in Stras-bourg, having put in a brief appearances only twice this



The Guardian Saturday October 19 1996

Co Affirmative action takes toll on Dole in California

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

HE principal impedi-ment to Bob Dole's "last stand" for the presidency in Califor-nia is the chairman of his campaign in the Golden State,

the governor, Pete Wilson.
An injection of money, a new television campaign in this most politically telegenic of states, and Mr Dole's creditable performance in Wednesday's debate with President Clinton in San Diego, seem unlikely to overcome a serious tactical error by Mr Wilson.

A shrewd political oppor-tunist, he has a successful re-cord of picking an issue to sweep him and fellow Republicans into office. In 1994 he was re-elected

through the exploitation of il-legal immigration. His vehicle was Proposition 187, a referendum that denied most health and educational benefits for undocumented workers. Its easy passage helped

son's otherwise colourless

cal dud, and Mr Dole is stuck with it. The issue is affirmative action (positive discrimi-nation). Under Proposition 209, affirmative action would be scrapped in public employment, education and the awarding of business con-tracts. But the populist fer-vour the governor expected has yet to appear, and Republicans rarely even mention it.

Last year, when Mr Wilson still nurtured his own presidential ambitions, he regarded Proposition 209 as the ideal vehicle on which to ride into the White House. With its undertone of racial politics, it offered the promise of a repeat of 1994.

Unfortunately for Mr Wil-son, his candidacy collapsed early in the Republican primaries. Yet he and his allies at the party's head remain so committed to the issue, it is still the key tactic for a Republican victory in

For months Mr Wilson has chief beneficiaries are urged the Dole campaign to embrace the proposition and Kemp already have most wholeheartedly, as a sure way of galvanising Republicans and attracting floating white voters resentful of "reverse

Until this week Mr Dole remained sceptical, con-cerned that the issue might spur even greater numbers of blacks and Hispanic Democrats to vote in its defence. The choice of Jack Kemp for the vice-presidency reflected was eavesdropping.
The governor argued that his caution: Mr Kemp's civil rights' record has made him

Americans. Both candidates now en-dorse the proposition, al-though the issue shows no signs of a sufficient revival to justify Mr Wilson's enthusiers, the Hewlett-Packard computer company and six chambers of commerce, have come out against it. Other businessmen have remained silent, but have withheld cash

"Affirmative action is not like immigration," said an ancosting taxpayers millions in services, and its beneficiaries can't be blamed for annoy-ances like graffiti or crime.

"Most important of all, its chief beneficiaries are

difficulty attracting." Mr Wilson talks of "fair-ness" and "a level playing field". But in a private tele-

seeking support from 60 busi-ness leaders, Mr Wilson and his guest, the House Speaker Newt Gingrich, were astonishgly frank. It would not have mattered, except that,

the issue "works strongly to our advantage and has the popopular among Africantential to make a critical dif-ference in the race for Dole and House members". Mr Gingrich added that it was "vital to keep control of the House'

> keep Mr Clinton spending funds and time in California, fighting for its 54 electoral college votes, the election's biggest prize. Mr Clinton leads Mr Dole by nine points here, and has

secured support through 30 visits to California during his presidency. The state's economy is booming and Mr Dole's warnings of future crisis have not dented a cautiously optimistic mood among voters. Meanwhile, affirmative action has become just an-other proposition among 14

others on the November ballot Its failure to resonate

leaves a policy vacuum that even Democrat cash infusions



Bob Dole meets supporters at a campaign rally in Albuquerque, New Mexico, yesterday

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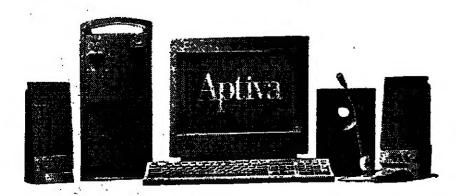
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News in brief

Belgian king joins justice protest

BELGIUM'S King Albert joined the rising tide of demands for a complete overhaul of the justice system yesterday as tens of thousands of people took to the streets across the country for the fourth day running.

There were some minor clashes between protesters and police and traffic was halted by demonstrators outraged at the bungling and incompetence revealed by the country's paedophile murder scandal.

As Brussels prepared for what one newspaper dubbed "the march of the century." on Sunday in support of the parents of dead and missing children, a top minister warned the govern-ment could topple. "If the government does not listen to the public and does not make sure that the investigation can continue perfectly, it could fall," said the interior minister, Johan Vande Lanotte. — Reuter, Brussels.

Swiss admit Polish deal

communist regimes. — Reuter, Zurich,

SWITZERLAND acknowledged yesterday that it did a secret deal with Poland in 1949 to liquidate Polish citizens' unclaimed wealth but denied charges that this had let it keep the property of Jewish

Under the arrangement, unclaimed Polish funds in Switzer-land were to be turned over to Poland's central bank. "Various sides alleged yesterday that Switzerland struck a secret accord with Poland after the second world war that let land seize for itself dorman Swiss foreign ministry statement said. "This allegation is wrong." Switzerland has denied an assertion from Alfonse D'Amato, the chairman of the US Senate banking committee, that Berne struck deals that let it tap the unclaimed wealth of Eastern European Jews to compensate Swiss citizens for property nationalised by

Turks face human rights trial

IN the most sweeping prosecution of Turkish authorities for alleged human rights abuses, 11 police officers went on trial yesterday for the death of a journalist in detention.

Another 37 police officers face charges of using excessive force on hundreds of people at the funeral of two inmates killed in prison riots. The trial in the western city of Aydin is being closely watched by Turkey's Western allies as a test of its promise to improve its human rights record. None of the 48 defendants was ent at the trial.

Meanwhile, an appeal court upheld a 20-month suspended sentence given to the author Yasar Kemal on charges of Kurdish separatism and inciting hatred among the people for an article he wrote attacking the government's handling of the Kurdish insur-

iraq may have secret arsenal

THE chief United Nations arms Inspector to Iraq, Rolf Ekeus, arrived in Baghdad today to voice suspicion that Saddam Hussein's regime still harbours a secret arsenal of deadly chemical and biological weapons.

The UN team is also concerned about secret work being carried out on long-range missiles that could strike into the heart of

Europe.

Mr Ekeus believes there are more revelations to come. He wants to know what became of 200 tonnes of anthrax, large quantities of botulinum toxin, which kills by food poisoning supplies of aflotoxin, a fungi that causes slow death by cancer, and 300 tonnes of V-X, a hardier form of Sarin gas, which was used last year in the Tokyo underground attack that killed 12 people. —

Maggie O Kanc. Baghdad and a have-a-go hero, Weckend, page 28

KDP retakes strategic town

MOVING forward after a week of setbacks, the Iraqi-backed Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) yesterday retook the strategic town of Koy Sanjak, which straddles the highway to northern

Irag's regional capital, Irbil. With its capture of the town, the KDP has succeeded in pushing its Iranian-sponsored rivals, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), further away from Irbil, which lies about 30 miles to the

As the two groups battled east, south-east and north-east of the regional capital, there was no sign that Iraqi troops had helped their KDP allies. — AP, Koy Sanjak.

UK ignorance stuns French

BRITISH students are the bookworms of Europe, according to a study for the French ministry of culture. But young Britons are

also the most ignorant about foreign writers.

French pollsters who interviewed more than 6,000 third-year university students in Britain, France, Italy, Spain and Germany could not hide their shock at British ignorance: "More than half revealed themselves incapable of citing a single French author!" Asked what French books they had read, most Britons (44 per cent) said the Asterix cartoons. Asked to name English language authors, 50 per cent of French students name Shakespeare first,

followed by Agatha Christie and Oscar Wilde. The British are the most avid readers but are most likely to own a television - 73 per cent said time was well spent in front of the box, against 59 per cent of French. — Alex Duval Smith, Paris.

Lebed loses Chechenia too

Fears for peace as [new envoy sought

HE fragile peace en enia by Alexander Lebed appeared to be in trouble yesterday as the Kremlin confirmed that the reserve general, already sacked from his main national security posts by Bo-ris Yeltsin, will no longer be in charge of talks with the

Without General Lebed's authority to hustle and bully the talks along, there is a danger that groups opposed to the separatists' growing power will provoke a new conflict.

These include the Russian interior ministry, headed by General Anatoly Kulikov. who led the movement against Gen Lebed this week, and Chechen police loyal to

Gen Lebed, who celebrated his freedom from state office yesterday with a visit to the theatre to see a play about Ivan the Terrible — "to learn how to rule" — may be secretly relieved at the announcement, which absolves him of blame for any collapse in the negotiations and allows him to concentrate on his po-

There were few voices raised in Russia's ruling circles yesterday against the president's melodramatic video dismissal of his brief

But some warned that Gen Lebed's exit from what many Russians consider a den of thieves and rogues will only enhance his public reputation. He could boomerang back into the Kremlin as Mr Yeltsin did after Mikhail Gorbachev dismissed him from

'Alexander Lebed is a very popular man with the people. And, speaking frankly, I think he is like the Boris Yeltsov, the young, economically liberal, governor of Nizhny

Novgorod region. The president's press spokesman, Sergei Yastrz-hembsky, said the replace-Chechen negotiator was only | lost, page 9

a question of time. "New can-didates for the job are being discussed now ... The federal authorities will adhere strictly to a peaceful course in regulating the Chechen con-

The country as a whole and many politicians still in power — including the prime minister, Victor Chernomyrdin - are thought to support the Lebed peace deal.

Trying to keep up the mo-

mentum, the separatists made a unilateral announcement yesterday that elections will be held in Chechenia on January 27. But it is unlikely that date set without its approval.

Everyone is watching the Moscow with concern," a rebel spokesman said. The rebel spokesman said. The leaders of Ichkeria [the Chechen name for the territory think that with the dismissal of Lebed, the key factor in the process of peaceful settlement has been removed."

The rebel information min-ister, Movladi Udugov, described Mr Yeltsin's action as a cry for help from a man trapped by illness and a manipulative clique of aides. "Yeltsin is helping Lebed to

become Russian president." he said. "He is taking him step by step along the road of his own past . . . I think Yelt-sin, who feels a hostage to his entourage, is doing this deliberately. In the Russian parliament.

the Duma, the degree of hos-tility towards Gen Lebed was shown by the overwhelming rejection of a motion from the liberal Yabloko fraction calling on the president to sack Gen Kulikov as well. Party leaders like Gennady

Zvuganov of the Communists and Vladimir Zhirinovsky of the nationalist LDPR fear and loathe Gen Lebed for stealing "The Duma raised the issue

of a peaceful settlement in Chechenia 35 times, but the government drew a decision out so long that the conflict spread to the federal authorities themselves," Mr Zyuganov said.



Police frisk men at Moscovsky station, St Petersburg, as security is tightened amid fear of rebel Chechen attacks

Generals' unlikely political partnership

David Hearst in Moscow

F ALL the odd marriages thrown up by Russian politics, the der Lebed and Alexander Korzhakov looks — at first sight — the most curious.

There are many much safer backers that Gen Lebed could have chosen to accompany him in opposition — instead of one who has been up to his neck in intrigue. Gen Lebed leaves power

with a clean image. The same cannot be said of the disgraced grey cardinal of Boris Yeltsin's first presidential term, Gen Korzhakov.

The two generals have appeared together only once. when Gen Lebed — the for-

- to an admiring crowd of potential voters in Tula, the home of Gen Lebed's

Gen Lebed would have strong chance of winning a presidential election if the ailing President Yeltsin is forced to stand down. He is currently the most popular man in

new ally in the election for the parliamentary seat that Gen Lebed had to give up when Mr Yeltsin appointed him secretary to the Security

The two men have been reticent about their alliance. Asked why he was supporting Gen Korzhakov in his attempts to enter politics, Gen Lebed muttered: "Because senting Gen Korzhakov - the | On another occasion he said: | political leaders.

former presidential body- "He is a patriot, a son of his guard — to an admiring country. There are no criminal investigations surrounding him." Hardly the best reason for a political liaison. Gen Korzhakov was even more laconic. Asked who was

capable of replacing President Yeltsin, he replied: "Lebed." Why did Gen Lebed choose him? Gen Lebed does not have a political party. His backers, For Honour and Motherland, are unable to organise across Russia.To be elected, the nationalist general has to present himself as

an all-Russian candidate. Nor does Gen Lebed have good links with the regions. He is not known by the pow-erful heads of the administration and his financial resources are limited. Out of power, he has only a limited of political contacts - many regional bosses were named by President Yeltsin with his elp. He also had important links with business. Gen Korzhakov stretched

the concept of "presidential security" to its limits. He was accused of bugging the gov-ernment, and made it his business to learn everyone's secrets, their infidelities, details of their bank accounts particularly abroad — and the extent to which they were involved in crooked deals.

This knowledge has given him power, and a comfortable insurance policy — as he said in his only press conference — should anyone be so foolish as to arrest him or threaten his family. Gen Lebed has said he

Gen Korzhakov has plenty | counter-claims is set to continue against the businessmen Vladimir Gusinsky and Boris Berezovsky. To hurt them would be to hurt Anatoly Chubais, the president's chief of staff, who engineered

Gen Korzhakov's dismissal. The other reason Gen Lebed chose him is that, fantastic though it may seem, Gen Korzhakov has electoral appeal. For two years he has reated an image for himself as an honest officer of the law fighting corruption.

This strikes the right note for "new" nationalists consid-ering voting for Gen Lebed. Disillusioned by the grab for money in the first stages of privatisation, which benefited the ruling elite, these voters want a slice of the action. Above all they want revenge.

Discord looms over EU treaty

yesterday moved towards a new show-down with Britain over European Union integration when they called for their vision of "hard-core" integration to be enshriped in the Maastricht

The French and German foreign ministers. Herve de Charette and Klaus Rinkel, issued a joint paper calling for the insertion into the treaty of "one or several clauses on strengthened co-operation between willing and able member states". It will be submitted to the ongoing EU constitutional

conference.

Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl sold the idea of hard-core integration to President Jacques Chirac last De cember. Yesterday's proposal fleshes out the deal.

The aim is to amend the Maastricht Treaty to enable small, variable groups of EU members to push ahead in common policy-making on foreign and defence matters, law and order, and immigration and visa issues:

The Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, said last week that Britain was not opposed to greater flexibility in the EU on an ad hoc basis, with Germany and France moving faster towards integration But Britain may well seek to block moves to institutionalise these powers in EU

German officials said a draft treaty would be ready within eight weeks for the EU summit in Dublin, and finalised six months later at the Amsterdam summit.

akes

comfort

The eastward expansion of the EU is supposed to begin in earnest within six-months of the end of the ongoing intergovernmental conference. The scheduled end is next June. Bonn is adamant that the aim of hard-core integra-tion must be realised before further expansion.

Under yesterday's proposa' a general "flexibility clause would be inserted into the treaty allowing common policy-making in a given area for members who want to join in, and denying veto rights to While "flexibility" is the

new buzzword in Bonn for European policy, the Kohl-Chirac view is that the slow-

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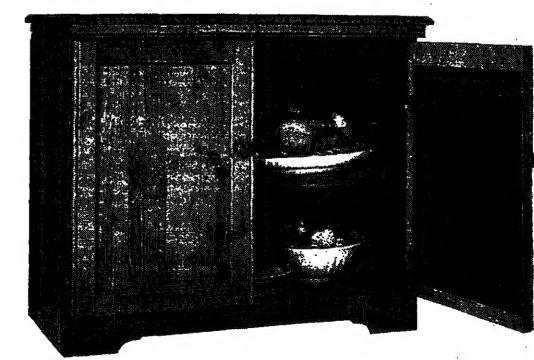
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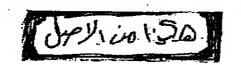


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SPEND

A firm believer

the distinguished economist who has died aged 81, was best known for revolutionising the branch of economics known as the theory of the firm and for her studies of oil as a basic industry. Among numerous committees and administrative posts, she also chaired the Economics Committee of the Social Science mittee of the Social Science Research Council.

She was born in Los Angeles, where her father was a road engineer (for a time they lived in road camps along the highway), and went to the University of California, Rorkeley to study economics. Berkeley, to study economics in the late 1930s. There, she met the man who was later to become her second husband (her first whom she had married in 1934 had been killed in an accident in 1938).

"Pen" was a Cornishman and economist, who in 1911 took US nationality to accept the job of economic adviser to the wartime US Ambassador to London. John Winant, and who was to play a significant role in the discussions with Keynes that led to the economic summit at Bretton young King Faisal was killed Woods. Edith joined "Pen" in In 1957. Around this time, the London and was also ap great book was completed,

DITH Penrose. pointed to a post at the em-the distinguished bassy, as special assistant to the ambassador. In 1944 the couple married and after the war went to John Hopkins University, Baltimore.

There Edith worked closely

with the economist Fritz Machlup and began the research which was to lead to her great book, The Theory of the Crowth of the Firm (Black-wells, 1959, re-issued by Oxford University Press, 1995). She and her husband were both caught up in the McCarthyite troubles and took a leading part in the defence of Owen Lattimore, the eminent Mongolia scholar whom McCarthy accused of being a communist spy. The family kept a box of hate mail they received at the time, in-cluding threats to burn down

At this point, Edith and "Pen" decided to take an extended sabbatical overseas, working at universities first working at universities first in Australia and then in Bagh-dad. They were in Baghdad when, as part of the historical process that led to the emer-gence of Saddam Hussein (whose evil Edith Penrose an-ticipated by some years), the

their house.

while her husband, approaching 65, retired to the UK. Here, Edith looked for a job. She applied to the Economics Faculty at Cambridge where the appointments committee, who had received the galley proofs of the book, were so impressed that they expected the interview to be a formality. In the end, however, her application was rejected.

After McCarthy, the family received a box of hate mail, including threats to burn their house

to have a rich career, first as a reader at the LSE, then as Dean of the Institut Europeen d'Administration des Affaires at Fontainbleu, as professor and department head at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies, and numerous miscellaneous appointments, including governor of the National Institute

to discover the significance of transfer pricing and tax voidance, and she was virtually the only economist to treat oil as an industry, rather than an esoteric branch of theory.

In the field of micros

ics, her theory on the busi-ness firm was revolutionary. she argued that the firm is an administrative organisation representing a collection of human and material resources for the purpose of producing and selling goods and services. It is essentially directed and controlled by its managers who will, for various reasons, be strongly motivated towards growth. The firm is not confined to any one product or market, but Cambridge's loss was may diversify as its managers Edith's gain, for she went on may think fit. Profits, for managers, are a means to the end of growth, rather than an end in themselves.

But there are important administrative restraints on the speed of the firm's growth. Human resources required for the management of change are tied to the individual firm and so are internally scarce. Expansion requires the recruitment of more such resources. New recruits can-

In the field of oil economics, not become fully effective Penrose was the first person overnight. The growth proovernight. The growth pro-cess is therefore dynamically constrained. These ideas may not sound

strange to people who have not studied economics, but for all those who have experienced the first year of a micro-economics course, they have a profoundly heterodox implication. For, as Edith Penrose argued, although the speed of expansion of the firm is constrained the ultimate size is not. There is no reason size is not. There is no reason for the firm not to grow efficiently to giant size. In the real world, as everyone knows, they do. But in conventional micro-economics they reach an "optimum" size, after which they are supposed inspiritably to become posed inevitably to become

Edith Penrose's entry in The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics concluded that the total effect of Edith Penrose's work was the destruc-tion of the neo-classical model of the firm. In the following years, however, in spite of the wide recognition that her work received, classroom eco-nomics often seemed to continue as if nothing had ever

happened. Edith had one son from her first marriage; and three sons

Penrose: lively and liberal

from her second marriage, of whom one predeceased her.

hard but always courteous argument. She was one of a generation of women who combined both profound fem-inism and femininity; com-mitted to family, her men.

Edith Tilton Penrose. economist, born November 29,

one from Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Lord Tedder. Another cause for Hooper's joy at the spreading fame of his creation, was a citation found after the war in the files of the Luftwaife, recommend-ing Prune for the award of the Iron Cross for having de-stroyed so many Allied air-craft." It was signed by the

The comic actor, Derek Nimmo, introducing Hooper's book The Passing of Pilot Offi-cer Prune (1975), wrote: "Idioti-cally enough, playing the fool isn't easy. To become a con-vincing major chump takes a lot of hard work but I think

Hooper's other cartoon creation was Aircraftman Plonk, came a variation designed for | was published in 1991. Two the Fleet Air Arm, Sub-Lt years later he moved to Prin-Swingit.
But it was Prune who cess Marina House run by the RAF Benevolent Fund where remained, smiling slyly, at the top of the RAF's cartoon roster. He even infiltrated the he had a studio in which he worked until the end. Bill Hooper is survived by his son. John, a Guardian journalist. His wife Nöelle, who was a WAAF and the model for

William John (Raff) Hooper, car-

Will Mutton writes: Edith Penrose was a great woman. She was intellectually coura-geous, unfailingly lively and liberal in the best sense of the word. Edith followed in Joan Robinson's tradition in mounting an effective demolition job on classical microeconomic theory — and her book, The Theory of the Growth of the Firm, is not only a testimony to her ideas

but an important building block in the emerging theory of stakeholding. She was immensely civi-lised and ready to engage in hard but always constant career and the world of ideas to equal degree. All who knew her or were taught by her will feel the loss.

1914; died October 11, 1996

Oberefehlshaber der Luftwaffe, Hermann Goering. After his demob, Hooper drew for a while for an Anglo-US training magazine, and in 1946 became perhaps the first cartoonist to draw, narrate and animate in simple fashion a BBC TV series for children, Willy the Pup. He remained with the BBC for some years before contributing a cartoon feature of odd facts, first to the famous children's comic, The Rnockout and later for the London evening newspaper, The Star. He then worked for 12 years as a journalist on the

Prune has achieved it."
Hooper's final book, Pilot
Officer Prune's Picture Purade, Prune's girlfriend, prede-ceased him.

Denks Glifford

toonist, born August 21, 1916; died October 14, 1996

Ovation for a master composer WILL never forget the sight

Appreciation: Berthold Goldschmidt

or the emotion of Berthold Goldschmidt (oblivary, October 18) on stage in the Berlin Philharmonie in 1987. The Berlin Festival had courageously decided to highlight works written by composers who had been driven out of Berlin during the Nazi period, and the directors were aston-ished to find that Berthold was still alive. At the end of the afternoon rehearsal, he had thanked the CBSO, saying "You will understand what a special occasion this is for me, as this is the first time any of my music has been played in Berlin for 62 years".

As you can imagine, the silence was palpable. In the evening, what was the public premiere of Ciacconna Sinfonica was an astonishing tri-umph, an ovation so thunder-ous it seemed for a moment doubtful that the concert could continue. Later Berthold wrote to me "My God, my little curtain-raiser almost became a house-downer!"

But on the evening itself, Berthold was eventually forced to leave his seat and climb slowly and painfully with his walking stick down to the stage. On reaching the platform, he made a powerful symbolic gesture, dispelling any doubts that this was not a true man of the theatre, by throwing down his stick and walking to the podium un-aided. The response of the au-dience was unforgettable, and prompted a re-evaluation and rebirth of Berthold Goldsch-midt, master composer.

The first complete performance of his opera Beatrice Cenci, magnificently conducted by Odaline de la Marti-nez (not myself as stated in Bernard Keeffe's excellent obituary) the following year ensured the momentum of rediscovery unstoppable. I first met him in 1979, dur-

ing my work on Deryck Cooke's reconstruction of cause no established Mahler's 10th Symphony, of which Berthold had conducted

the first performance, and had substantially contributed to the orchestration. Our immediate friendship soon gave way to the feeling that here was a long-lost member of my

family, with my children look-ing forward to his visits. Musically, of course, he was a very powerful influence on me, one of our last direct links with the performing traditions of the 1910s and 1920s, and a man with an always radical intelligence. I had long traditions his farments 1920 Phil known his famous 1959 Philharmonia performance of Mahler's 3rd (incredibly, the first time in the UK), but soon found that his insight covered all areas of music and the arts. He has left a treasure chest of

important music behind. It is as a man, though, that those of us close to him will miss him the most. His interest and engagement in everything and everybody around him made him youthful in age, with an almost bewilder-ing degree of warmth and en-ergy. Maybe it was his unusual combination of optimism and a sense of the

absurd that buoyed him up. Whatever, his attitude to life is well illustrated by his throwaway answer to a lead-ing question: "Do you not feel bitter about your treatment in Germany?". graciously trumped by "You know, bitter-ness is only a matter of taste".

obituary marking the death of Berthold Goldschmidt printed over my name contained substantial additions which I did not write. These included serious errors; in particular the statement that his opera Beatrice Cenci was first heard in full in 1988 in a performance by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Simon Rattle. In fact the opera was given in that year in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, conducted by Odaline de la Martinez, and was made possible only through the generosity of Helen Lawrence, beorganisation was willing to undertake it.

Weekend Birthdays

John le Carré, aka David Cornwell, is 65 today. He is the son of a dodgy father and a survivor of a bookless and chaotic childhood who grew up to be a professional outsider, at his best as a reporter. Such a pity, you felt through the great successes of the Smiley era, this ability to record being confined to environments mostly composed of filing-cabinets and sherry glasses. Why invent plots of intense incomprehensibility when any laconic few pars he wrote about, say, PLA training, were far more fascinat-ing? Money, one supposes.

71; Rosamund John, actress,

82; Carol Kidd. jazz singer, 51;

isation has all the answers and

few would claim it has. But there is at least an air of opti-

mism as answers are sought

through debate and dialogue.

Why then do we need to opt

Today's other birthdays: Prof Sir Robert Boyd, FRS, physicist and astronomer, 74; Eddie Daniels, jazz clarinetist, 55; Phil Davies, rugby player, 33; Michael Gambon, actor, 56; Sidonie Goossens, harpist, 96; Bernard Hepton, actor,



Bill Morris, general secretary, TGWU, 58; Mayis Nich-

Tomorrow's birthdays: Art Buchwald, columnist, 71; Patrick Hughes, artist, 57; Lawrence Daly, former min-ers' leader, 72; Kathy Kirby, singer, 58; Eddie Macken, showjumper, 47; Judge Deirdre McKinney, 68; Enid Marx, painter and designer, 94; Tom Petty, guitarist and singer, 43; Ian Rush, foot-baller, 35; Martin Taylor, jazz guitarist, composer, 40; Timo-thy West, actor, 62.

Death Notices

Memorial Services

Birthdays

ETo place your amnouncement to 0171 713 4567, Fax 0171 713 4129

Bill Hooper

Percy Prune takes off!

HE personality of Pilot ist, he kept his companions Officer Percy Prune amused with cartoons — takwas neatly summed up in a parody of a war-time pop song, "So dumb, but so dutiful". Prune was the creation of cartoonist Bill Hooper, best remembered by his pen name, Raff, who has died aged 80. What Bruce Bairnsfather's cartoon character Old Bill was to the first world war, so Raff's Prune the only cartoon heroes to survive peace and live on, in Memorandum. Armstrong books and in the memories of those who served and won.

In the introduction to Prune's first appearance in book form, *Prune's Progress*— mainly the slightly smiling (1941), Squadron Leader Anthony Armstrong Willis the Punch magazine writer

"AA" — described Prune as "the fool, the poop, the boob, the mug, the must, the butt, the clot, and the affable dimwit He is willing, but wet. He is one in a thousand; nay, rather one in a million which is lucky for the Royal Air Force!" Armstrong him-self added delightful detail to the character and shared billing in more than one of Prune's books.

Bill Hooper was born in London and his first job was as a laboratory assistant in a Windsor medical clinic. In 1939 he volunteered for the RAF and joined 54 Squadron

Face to Faith

Peter Thompson

HEOLOGY in the 20th

s exciting, it stirs the heart. In

retrospect, it will be seen as

and creative moments in the

history of modern thought, a time pregnant with all the pos

sibilities of new birth and new

Why then has our Church as

an institution, commissioned to be the sign and symbol of

century can be character-ised by one, rare, unex-

ing the name Raff from his pet dog. With some help in late 1940 Hooper put together an illustrated booklet, Forget-Me-Nots for Fighters about the lessons learned by pilots during the Battle of Britain. The booklet was seen by

Anthony Armstrong, who was in charge of editing and pro-ducing an internal RAF maga-zine with the somewhat offi-cious title of Training face of Prune, who popped up through the 24 pages as a kind of cartoon compere.

In an article in the first edition, Baling out or how to descend by parachute in a calm and collected fashion, Prune is seen descending by 'chute, but dangling upside down. In the danging upside down. In the same issue Prune, hands thrust deep into pockets, cap peak hiding his eyes, speaks for the first time the famous motto of the magazine: "Take Tee Emm regularly — prevents that Thinking Feeling!"

The gag was a pun on Bovril's popular advertising slogan. The Prune cartoons, originally unsigned, soon bore the small signature of W Hooper RAF and joined 54 Squadron RAF. This was shortened to text within concerning Sir existence the famous irremovof Fighter Command. An enthusiastic but untrained artificst proper book. In the cor. 1370), this royal ring was a vant) of the Prunes, together

Time to throw away the

comfort cushion of dogma

God's Kingdom of Love, been so deaf to the thundering pro-

down by 20th century theolo-gians around the globe? It was Kari Barth who bel-lowed, "Religion is the enemy

of faith." Bonhoeffer, a friend of the Bishop of Chichester, writing from his prison cell, said it is not our task to make people more Christian, but

more truly human. He said that in a world come of age we

should be seeking the sacred in

phetic challenges throws





of Prune appears the family with a large hand, index fin-ger pointing upwards balancing an outsized ring around the knuckle. According to the

The cry of the liberation theologians is that the Gospel

demands a preferential option for the poor, and reacts with prophetic clout at the dismal efforts of our Church towards

the poor and marginalised in

the global village. Women have entered the fray, and have af-

firmed their rights as persons in a Church stunted and de-

formed by its inbred patriar-

chy and misogyny. The ban-

ners are now held high proclaiming, God is Green;

ner of the dust-jacket portrait I reward to commemorate the brave action of Beowulf Prun, drowning by keeping his fore-finger firmly in a hole that would have otherwise flooded his galley. Thus came into

Whether it is the environment,

or the issue of race, God is alive and active in the ongoing es-tablishment of the Kingdom of

Love, and who can stop this

Our Church as an institu-

journey of faith?

who saved his men from

Air Ministry Telephone Di-rectory, thanks to Armstrong.

When a civil servant compil-ing the official phone book enquired about Hooper's empty chair in the editorial office, Armstrong told him it

belonged to Pilot Officer Prune, P. Special Duties Branch. Several phone calls

anan. This was the birth of the cry of "Finger!", an RAF admonishment that became

universal as "Pull your finger out!", immortalised by the Duke of Edinburgh.

It is about compassion, not

eming irrelevance of our Church, especially amongst the young, has less to do with doctrinal propositions and authority structures than with our bona fides; are we in good faith? It is a matter concerning action not theory. To be in good faith means showing forth in our lives, in our love for one another, that God is at

things new. In its attempt to hold fast to the rich heritage of a once proud, provincial and often patronising past, our Church, of whatever persuasion or denomination, shows all the signs of tension that accompany such prophetic out-bursts of faith of 20th century heology. How could it be

otherwise? Noting recent difficulties whether it be in our respons to women clergy, or to the real ity of same-sex partners, suggests that perhaps we need to look elsewhere than our doc-trinal propositions and authority structures for a cleare

tion, however, is on the back foot. It seems defensive and fearful lest it betrays the past as it faces the challenges and as it faces the changes and passions of the present. In a constant state of turnoil, our Church seeks solace in its tra-ditions and in a suspicion of work in the world, bringing about the Kingdom of Love on earth. In this we are his coworkers. This is not about doc trinal purity or abstract theological concepts, but about a lob to be done: to breed and

rision of the way forward. It is my contention that the

nurture Love; Justice and Goodwill amongst all. It has a political ring to it, and so it should but it has its roots leeply set in a commitment to the living presence of God.

judgment. It is about love, not law. Is this the focus of our Church? But, busy beyond our wildest dreams, our Church pursues its own agenda for sur vival, laden with an impossi-ble administrative task, not only to pay its way on a day-to-day basis, but having to meet the ever increasing costs of maintaining a fabric that often does not meet the needs of the

moment, yet remains part of a treasured past. Frustrated and often worn-out, thousands of faithful clergy and laity struggle to meet their people's needs. Per-haps we should think again about our need for parinership with each other as Christians, and with society at large

There is almost a sigh of relief amongst many in the Church at the liberation of secularisation, a world come of age that refuses to bow down to an authority structure. Not that this new world of secular-

for the cultic club and the com ort cushion of dogmatic certainty, safety and security? Isn't this a relic of a world long past? It has been tried and tested by our children, and found wanting. Yet what we need above all is the refreshing breath and virile whole-

ness of the young. That we are at a fork in the road few would dispute, yet the unmarked and untested dirt track of 20th century theology is a trail worth blazing in this new world of the global village It might prove a rugged path, but by God, what an exciting journey of faith! We might even find our children at the end of it.

Peter Thompson is a curate at St Luke's, Holloway, north London.

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the secular, and moving towards a religionless Chris-tianity. The role of the Church God is Black; God is Red.

*The*Guardian

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The minors that matter

But Sir James can't collect

THESE SEEM LIKE good times for political outsiders. In Austria last weekend, Jörg Haider's Freedom Party took a record 28 per cent of the vote on an antiestablishment, anti-Europe, anti-immigrant platform. At the same time in New Zealand, Winston Peters's New Zealand First Party came from nowhere to take 13 per cent of the votes and now holds the balance of power after the country's first proportional representation election of modern times. There have always been antiestablishment political parties, especially in the United States, but the 1990s have been a boom period. In widely different parts of the globe, populist campaigners (often very rich campaigners) such as Silvio Berlusconi, Ross Perot (1992 vintage rather than 1996) and Vladimir Zhirinovsky have rocked and in some cases toppled the status quo. Such assaults are far from irresistible and most elites have survived. Nevertheless, few political cultures have been unscathed and none can be confident that they will escape in the future.

In many respects, 1990s Britain would seem a prime target for such a challenge. Our political institutions are conspicuously more elitist and visibly less reformed than those of almost any other established democratic society, as the flummery of the State Opening on Wednesday will remind us. Our parties have become highly convergent around a common neo-liberal analysis of the country's needs, offering little opening to heterodox ideas and solutions. Our politicians are unpopular and indiscriminately tarred with the brush of corruption; the Guardian/ICM poll last week revealed that two-thirds of voters (and a clear majority of the voters for each of the main political parties) believe that corruption is common among MPs of all political parties, and not just the Conservatives. Our collective bewilderment, and in many cases our shared resentment, at a perceived national decline is the immanent descant to the history of 20th century Britain. There is widespread hostility to immigrants and foreigners in many parts of our society and our culture. We possess a press of unprecedented and unequalled populist confidence, which is unafraid to besiege every institution and public figure in the land.

All the pre-conditions exist, in other words, for an effective populist assault on British political life. Yet, so far at least, it has not taken place. The only even briefly successful new party of modern times, the SDP, lasted for less than a decade. A succession of minor parties, ranging from the rich (the Natural Law Party and the Referendum Party) to the poor (the Greens, the Independence Party and the Socialist Labour Party) remain marginal. Under Margaret Thatcher, the Conservative Party managed to transform itself into a populist party even while retaining power, but neither Labour nor the Liberal Democrats have truly managed to capture this latent popular anger.

This ought to make Sir James Goldsmith's Referen dum Party the hottest political ticket in town. On the surface, it appears to fit the bill for the long-awaited British populist party — well-financed, anti-establishment and nationalistic. It even has a programme consisting exclusively of a single populist demand the holding of a referendum. And yet the striking thing about the Goldsmith Party is not its popular success but its lack of it. It remains a party of the elite, in this case the self-appointed elite of Sir James, his rich friends and a few media acolytes. It has no roots whatever in the soil where a populist movement ought to be strongest — among the poor, the young, or those who live outside the dominant culture of the south of England. The Referendum Party's conference in Brighton this weekend is little more than a publicity stunt, and its electoral failure is absolutely predictable. Yet does this mean that our political system is strong and healthy? Anything but. It simply means that Sir James is part of the problem, not part of the solution.

The Bill v Bob show

Dole's ethical punch missed its target

IT WAS A DEBATE doomed not to inspire. Bill Clinton's best policy as he neared the end of the contest was to act presidential, shrug off personal attacks and avoid physical contact. Bob Dole's only chance was to hit a devastating weak spot in his opponent. His buildup suggested that he was preparing to aim below the belt. Yet on Wednesday he backed away, muffling his punch just at the point when a spot of aggression might have revealed the hidden flabbiness in Mr Clinton. Mr Dole was hampered by an apparent lack of voter interest in the issues of personal and presidential sleaze and/or misconduct. While he spoke of scandals "almost on a daily basis", the audience preferred questions about their daily bread and butter.

The last few days had seen the emergence of a really scandalous issue — nothing to do with sex or travel agencies or FBI files at all - with which Mr Dole could have done more. His elliptical reference to "(campaign) contributions coming in from Indonesia or other foreign countries" can barely have registered on the viewing audience. Yet the links emerging between wealthy Indonesian financiers and the Clinton campaign raise a serious question as to whether US trade and human rights policy has been modified to suit Jakarta. But Mr Dole's party has never shown much concern for human rights issues unless they involve a communist regime.

However often we are warned about the unpredictable effect of the unpredicted, it is very hard to resist the obvious conclusion that Mr Clinton is going to win. Mr Dole's percentage of expressed voting intentions in the opinion polls is below the 40 per cent mark and has never gone above it this year. His age is a sufficiently adverse factor to enable Mr Clinton to refrain magnanimously from exploiting it. A poorly managed campaign with a great deal of feuding behind closed doors has not helped either. On Thursday Mr Dole issued an empty challenge for a third debate and declared that he was going to make the economy the main issue. This late shift of focus to a subject where Mr Clinton has already shown he has little difficulty only reinforces the air of

The polls do contain one contrary indication. When asked which candidate has more integrity and character, voters have preferred Mr Dole by a majority of three to one. But if ethics were a vote-winner, the history of presidential elections on many past occasions would have been very different indeed.

More rounds in the big shoot-out the House

Snowdrop Campaign in-creasingly distasteful ('We will not compro-

mise', October 17). As a parent whose only child was run down and killed by a speeding motor vehicle, I understand better than most what they are feeling. At the same time, however, I find deeply offensive their tacit assumption that the only child deaths the victim was shot.

If this amount of money and effort were put into roadsafety campaigns and carrestriction schemes, the result would have been hundreds, if not thousands, of lives saved annually. Name and address supplied.

HE Home Secretary is

reported as insisting "that a total ban (on handguns) would run the risk of driving a previously legal activity underground with potentially great danger to the public". How does this match the indignant assurances by gun-club

OU are right (Leader, Oc-

tober 15) to be suspicious of

the "messy compromise"

reached by the joint Foreign

Office/BBC working party on the future of the BBC World

Service. But as a former edi-

tor, BBC World Service News,

I think you were wrong to sug-

to evaluate it properly until it

It is all too obvious that the

so-called safeguards are of lit-

tle or no value, and that the

World Service will be irrepa-

dedicated World Service news

unit within the domestic BBC

What good are the "exten-

sive powers" of World Service

Commissioners to specify the

programmes they want if the

experts who have been pro-ducing these programmes so

successfully have been dis-

banded and so are no longer available? And what in beav-

en's name is the use of "tough

changes by the BBC governors

scrutiny" of the effect of the

a sad body of the weakly

incompetent who were quite prepared to let Birt's original

What faith can we have in a working party which accepted

Birt's failure to produce any

evidence of cost savings, even

though these were said to be

one of the main reasons for the

changes? You quote John Birt

rably damaged. So its news department is to become "a

afeguard?

gest that it will be impossible

Goodbye to the World Service

spokespersons that their members are safe, sane and

It raises the question as to who these gun-club members are - and how many there will be — who would suddenly become unsafe, insane and dismissive of the law if a total ban on handguns were to be imposed. (Dr) Fred H Kaan. Hazelwood Road, Acocks Green

Birmingham B27.

EMBERS of gun clubs are a motley assemblage ranging from purist marks-men from the tournament scene through to the occa-sional member who simply en loys handling firearms. As banning boxing would proba-bly promote illegal pugilism, so a total ban may drive the more fanatical of the gun-club members underground.

Do we as a society prefer to see the continuance of a controlled outlet, perhaps a safety valve, for what may be a sus-pect predilection, or do we

as saying that the process (of

vice, helped safeguard its quality and ethos. Meaning-

Crawley, Sussex RH10 7RT.

FCO report. The group will

reconvene next autumn to

"ensure that quality has been

maintained". But what will

happen if it discovers that it

be our Foreign Secretary by

that time, has pledged during the first year of a Labour gov-

ernment to review compre-

hensively the impact of any changes. Malcolm Rifkind ap-

pears to have remained silent.

We listeners will have a key

role to play in feeding to Mr Birt and to our politicians our

United Nations Association.

reactions and comments.

Piease include a full postal

address, even on e-mailed

We may edit letters: shorter

etters, and a talephone numbe

ones are more likely to appear.

Malcolm Harper.

3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL.

We regret we cannot

Director.

The Liberal Democrats

has not? Robin Cook, who may

HE die is now cast with the publication of the BBC-

ess nonsense, Mr Birt.

Cherrystone House, Church Road, Worth

David Spanii.

questioning his proposals) has strengthened the World Ser-

wish to risk a tragedy by diverting the fanatic's aim away from his or her present paper targets? Patrick Dockrell. Farnborough, Hants GU14.

N my teens I was given an air pistol, not a very danger ous weapon but still a ma-chine designed to propel a piece of lead into another person or another animal. I was fascinated by it: I found it strangely sexy. Probably the wisest decision of my life was to swap the gun for my friend's dad's collection of jazz records. I now shiver at the thrill I felt during my brief possion of that hellish toy.

I am sure that the vast majority of gun-club members are well-balanced people whose hobby presents no dan-ger. I am equally sure that these same well-balanced people feel at least the seed of the thrill I felt. Brondesbury Villas,

SINCE December 1995, when the Department of

Transport relaxed the type of premises that could be sign-

trunk roads, increasing num-bers of "tourist facility" signs

have appeared. They signpost

facilities such as pubs, restau-rants, shops and nurseries on

Such signs add to roadside

clutter and, through their fix-

ing on the supports holding road signs, distract motorists

by competing with essential information. The problem is aggravated when the signs

have the colour and form of

the traditional "temporary' AA signs — which com-

manded attention for the in-

formation they carried about traffic flows for events, and

There appears to be nothing to stop any concern from join-

ing the rush to promote itself in this way. Such signs' siting

an apparently permanent

posted on motorways and

London NW6.

is a reproduction of an an-tique arm used during the American Civil War. It uses no cartridges. It has to be loaded with powder, then ball, then a cap in order for it to be fired. I doubt if hir Howard is aware of the existence of such hand-

guns. But my antique is about to become illegal. The proposi-tion will be ald the end to the Sealed Knot and the Civil War Enactment Society, with all the pleasure that these groups provide to thousands of onookers each year. Mike Scott. East Bridgford Nottingham NG13.

USE and own a handgun. It

ILL the proposed con-trols include the 130,000plus guns legally held throughout the Unionist popu-lation in Northern Ireland, mainly licensed by the old Unionist-dominated Stormont government?

One can hazard a guess that there is a weapon in every two or three households in Unionist areas, and Ian Paisley is on

DOG & DUCK

and design needs much more

careful thought. The highway

is no place for advertisement

i Angel Lane. Blythburgh, Halesworth,

Alan Mackley.

Suffolk IP199LU.

Over age

masquerading as traffic signs.

HE director of Age Concert London (Letters, October

16) states that "it is unforgivable to tell older people that

their lives are worth less than

everyone else's". But that is the case. Anyone over 75 has

had a good innings, but mod-

ern medicine may compel them to continue into the 80s

and 90s. Aged 86, I hope for no

heroic measures when things

go wrong. Accelerate death by

save my family anxiety, and the NHS a lot of money.

all legitimate means. This will

Driven mad by sign language

record as saying, just before last Christmas, that "these weapons would be used to resist change".

Reddicap Heath Road, Birmingham B75. HE Territorial Army TV advertising campaign poses the question: "How best might we surprise and kill all the sleeping inhabitants of yonder camp?" Mortar? Machine gun fire? Grenades?

Napalm? In the light of the gun legislation debate, I'm amazed that the Government is actually advertising violence. David Speakman. Jeffreys Road, London SW4.

AM in complete agreement with your campaign to remove powerful handguns from our society. But airguns What next? Catapaults and spud guns? Let's be realistic. Ian Taylor. Kingston Road,

A poor review

Y wing" poverty expert (Firms 'should curb top pay to aid low-waged', October 12). My political views have nothing to do with my professional social-science assignment to serve on the Channel 4 Poverty Commission. I am described in the Channel 4 report itself as Emeritus Professor of Social Policy. You do not describe fellow-commis-sioner Prue Leith as a "rightwing" caterer, or Sir Stephen Tumim as a "rightwing" former Chief Inspector of Prisons. Both could justifiably ob-

ject to such disparagement.
Disparagement infects your
whole summary. It is one thing to call attention to disagreements between individual members of a public inquiry in the process of reaching a unanimous report. This will hardly come as a surprise to anyone who has served on such inquirles. It is strategy or the main policy rich, the strengthening of universal benefits, the creation of

another to fail to reflect the thrust of the report — on the need for more taxation of the more public- and private-sector jobs, the delivery of more good quality, affordable housing, an increase in the funding of further education and a calculated move towards more local self-management Peter Townsend. University of Bristol, Block F, 8 Woodland Road, Bristol BS8 1TN.

Lewes, Sussex BN7.

VOU describe me as a "left-

suit of corruption in high places (Leader, October 16)

Hov

gavid Hears

you may be in danger of com-pounding the problem at the heart of the matter—the accountability, or lack of it, of our elected representatives. Parliamentary democracy is clearly in a parlous state. You propose a Tribunal of Inquiry, which would almost certainly be chaired by a judge. It is not clear that the

answer to our lack of control over our elected representatives is to hand the problem to the judiciary, an even more unaccountable, more elite and

unelected group.
For another thing, despite
the inflated claims made for
the development of judicial
review, the judges are not renowned for trenchantly. standing up to the executive. Witness the recent report of Sir Richard Scott. Well what. some of us would say, would

you expect?
John Fitzpatrick.
21 Hillfield Avenue. London N87DU.

YOUR report of the Willetts affair resulted in my moving a resolution on October 16 (Minister called to account on Hamilton scandal, October 16). This was narrowly based and merely addressed the question of whether he used improper influence on the committee. But it also raises a

number of important issues. The power of the Standards and Privileges Committee to demand access to documents is extensive. I hope they will not only exercise that power but handle the enquiry in the most open manner that is con-stitutionally possible. It can no longer be accept able for our deliberations in any area, except where national interest takes precedence, to take place in secret, Andrew Miller MP. House of Commons,

WHEN Neil Hamilton MP wished to take his case to the courts it was deemed illegal for him to do so. The law was changed by Parliament to make it possible.

London SWIA OAA.

Diane Blood wishes to have ner dead husband's child by artificial insemination and it has been deemed illegal for her to do so. When will Parlia ment change the law to make her wish possible?

How long must we tolerate one rule for MPs and a different rule for the rest of us? Bill Morris. General Secretary, Transport and General Workers' Union, Palace Street, London SW1E 5JD.

The littler week, and other big ideas

ANOTHER

As the election approaches, our series Another Manifesto will continue to let readers in lect constructive ideas into political debate. A panel will judge those ideas which most deserve to be taken up by our political leaders. Further proposals on Monday's Comment Page.

E have it on good au-thority that the royal family is considering the monarchy's future. The people should also consider it. The reform of the monarchy, or its possible replace-ment with a presidency, can never be included in the manifesto of a party seeking to form a government. Neither is it suitable for a Private Memher's Bill. The next government should seek to discuss the matter with the Queen and with constitutional "experts".

can command, it should seek

the authority of Parliament, or a free vote, to set up a People's Commission on the Constitution. This will take representations from any UK individual or body.

If the Queen dies before the

Commission has made its final report, the heir to the throne should carry out the mon-arch's present constitutional duties as if he were the first president. When the Commission has reported, proposals put to Parliament, for a free vote, by the government of the day would be outside its own political agenda. If it is appro-priate for the acting president to be crowned king, the consti tutional monarchy would be seen to have the citizens' full consent. But if the monarch's constitutional duties are to be transferred to a presidency, then there is still an unbroken succession. Or is there a bet-

Janet Dubé. Abernawmor, Pencader, Carmarthenshire SA399BA

HE proposal: a four-day week. The argument: spreads work over a greater number of people (French research shows it could create over 1 million jobs); allows more free time for friends and family, relaxation, leisure and learning; reduces social costs of stress-related illnesses and anti-social behaviour; can be done without significant cuts

in earnings. Stan Rosenthal. 236 The Welkin, Lindfield, West Sussex RH16 ZPN.

HREE thoughts. First, in order to improve people's perception of their own sense of responsibility, anyone wishing to own a cat, dog, ger bil, etc. should take a competence test in animal welfare. If successful, they should gain a licence, to be presented at any

pet shop, kennels, etc. Second, the cost of cleaning public areas of chewing gum is becoming an increasing bur-den on local authorities. All sweet shops, or other shops selling chewing gum, should impose a tax of 25 per cent on each purchase of chewing gum. The revenue should be spent by the local authority in employing people to steam

clean the streets and public Third, a way to combat reckless social behaviour. A Social Behaviour Court

should be set up. Anyone who causes a breach of the peace (eg a noisy neighbour) should be brought before it, with community-service sentences Dennis E Franklin. Sandeate. Folkestone, Kent CT20 3EE.

WHAT is needed is a tax on packaging. The more unecessary the packaging, the higher the tax; the more compostible the material, the lower the tax

If a tax is designed to penalise uses of materials which damage the environment, we will soon see the public going back containers. The success of such a tax would be measured by the smallness of the sum

raised. James Page. 53 Kinghorn Road, Burntisland,

MACHYNLLETH: One of the | its 50th birthday, Faithfully most endearing features of life in small country towns is surely the existence of local societies for the study of history, archaeology, natural his tory, horticulture and other outdoor interests. Some of these clubs have not lasted. Others are remarkable for their long duration. I think for instance, of the Caradoc and Severn Valley Field Club, or the Woolhope, but there are or have been many others. Traces of defunct ones can be found in the early files of newspapers — especially valuable for this part of the world, being a treasury of information — called Byegones Relating To Wales And The Border Counties, published long ago but still available in reference libraries. It takes us back to the days when, to get to the field frolics of their local society, people were con-veyed in wagonettes, or they went on horseback, or they simply walked, maybe for

miles. I am moved to these

thoughts because this week

one of our local natural his-

tory societies is celebrating

for half a century the Montgomeryshire Field Society has held its AGM, elected its officers, arranged its programme of meetings (which have had a remarkably good attendance record) and produced its annual report telling us what creatures have been sighted, what wild-flowers found and what the weather was like. As is inevitable these days, the society has often been involved in struggles for conservation. some being won, some lost. And last year its botanical re-cords were seminal in the production of an excellent flora of Montgomeryshire. This week we wonder hether, 50 years from now, the Montgomeryshire Field Society will be celebrating its centenary? For this the auguries are very good if we think of the distinguished hisory of another Montgomeryshire institution, the Powysland Club, the oldest archaeological society in Britfoundation in 1867. WILLIAM CONDRY

RIP the RP: the party will soon be over



IR James Goldsmith is never knowingly understated, so it this week that he should claim, immodestly as ever, that no party conference has ever faced a more fundamentally important issue than the one which his Referendum Party will debate today at

Brighton.
Along with the late Kim Il Sung, Sir James shares a touching belief in the effectiveness of full-page adverts in the national press as a means of advancing his cause. His characteristically ncautious assessment of the historic significance of his Brighton rally appeared in one of them this week. I sup-pose it was intended to make

to treat Brighton like Agincourt and think ourselves ac-cursed we are not there. But the only important issue being decided at Brighton this weekend is which dinner in-vitation to accept. And the only party that matters is Lord McAlpine's.

I simply do not understand why anyone except Taki takes the Referendum Party so seriously. But they do. Grown Tory MPs flinch at the very thought of it. They talk airly about Goldsmith taking 2 percent of the vote in every concent of the vote in every constituency. They jabber ner-vously that he can lose the Tories the election. They will do any deal to be passed over when Sir James smites the unbelievers. Lord Archer, the author of this psephological canard, still seems to believe in it, judging by his recent in-terviews. Sir James, unsurprisingly, does nothing to dis-

courage him. But the claim is simply unsupportable. It is, of course, one think. If so, the thoughts | true that any vote for Gold-

it inspires are probably not those he would wish.

No conference has ever been more preposterously oversold than the one which starts and ends in Brighton this weekend. Sir James and that they could break the system of the that they could break the sys-tem, but in the end it was the that in the end it was the system that broke them. What the Natural Law Party was to the 1992 general election — 0.2 per cent of the national vote and a landslide of lost deposits - the Referendum Party will be to the election of 1997.

There is no great mystery about this. It all comes down to numbers — and Sir James's aren't big enough. The polling organisation, MORI, calculates that in all its quota sample surveys conducted between July and September this year it found 62 Referendum Party supporters out of a total of 17,158 voters—or less than 0.4 per cent of the total. True, RP support is concentrated among old. male, middle-class ex-Tory voters living in the south of England (and is thus liable to have a greater effect among such voters), but their chief characteristic is that they are so rare. Moreover and cru-

cially, as election day nears they are likely to be squeezed

may take enough votes to make the difference in a

Party arguably lost the Tories one seat in 1992). But the threat is massively exaggerated. If the Tories lose power, it will be because of Tony Blair not Sir James Goldsmith.

One might, just, take the Referendum Party more seriously if it was clear about what it wants. But it isn't what it wants. But it isn't.
"Let the people decide" say
the party's press releases, yet
they never say exactly what
the people are to decide
about. "A referendum on
Europe," the ads demand. But Europe," the ads demand. But the party doesn't, won't and perhaps ultimately can't say what question would be asked in this European referendum. Sir James used to demand a referendum on the Maas-tricht Treaty. But that has been dropped now. Occasion.

been dropped now. Occasionally be advocates a referen-

dum on the current inter-gov-

ject undented, even assuming a No majority. handful of seats.

These things occasionally happen (the Natural Law The assumption used to be that Sir James wanted a referendum on British entry into a

European single currency. But then the Government committed itself to doing that, if and when it ever opts for entry (not that it ever will), and still Sir James was not satisfied. He moved the goalposts again, because he is now more interested in the game than in the outcome.

Only two viable referendum options still remain for him. The first would be the declaratory but ultimately vague ref-erendum that he now appears to favour most, held before the Government took a decision on entry to the single cur-rency, while the other would be the full works which many of his followers would prefer — do we stay in the EU or not a rerun of the 1975 referendum in which we voted by two to one to stay in. As, in my view, we would again. But we still don't know for

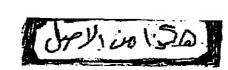
addresses a French audience rather than a British one.

The Referendum Party's culture and mystique are anti-European, and I have no doubt that most of those making the trip to Brighton assume that the objective of a referendum is to secure a No vote to whatever proposition is put to the people. This could, though, be a dangerous assumption. They are a party whose ostensible single issue, the referendum, is a surrogate for the real single issue — opposition to Europe — which fires its

supporters.

Voters notice these things.
They can tell that there's something fundamentally wonky about this party. And since I very much doubt that they are seriously intending to vote for it anyway, this could be the final blow. The delegates should enjoy their parties and dinnage while they parties and dinners while they can. They won't be back next year. Twelve months from now it will be RIP for the RP.

even further by the major ernmental conference — the sure which of these options | Mark Lawson is away



won —

and lost

It was to be the dawn of a new

wonderful, energising Western

LYING east to ar- alternative to supporting Bo-rive in the habitual ris Yeltsin, who, whatever

wary travellers. It was De-cember 1991, the last days of Mikhail Gorbachev and the Soviet Union. The Red Flag deal with heads of states. Bad

great empire's authority to come slithering down.

Sensing the moment, the planeload of westerners was full of nervous anticipation.

choice.

ted himself twice to popular

vote and won both times fairly. Who else was there?

Grigori Yavlinski, the young

Boris was the "least worst"

Plea-bargain Number Three: Let us not overesti-mate the West's influence on

internal Russian politics. It is

governments had an unex-

pectedly large amount of day to-day influence on the gover-

nance of Russia. They decided

when to turn on the financial taps to prop up the state bud-get, when to keep quiet (the CIA is very well informed about the murky events

around the storming of the

White House, the seat of a parliamentary rebellion in 1993) and when to turn up in person at Yeltsin's sick bed and declare him fighting fit.

US Vice-President Al Gore, after meeting Yeltsin in a san-atorium, said on July 17: "He

looks very good to me. He seems to be in good health. He

was relaxed, smiling," Note

the date. According to his car-diologists, including the US

heart surgeon Michael DeBa-key, he had had a heart attack

days before. The German

McDonald's

formed a similar political op-

age. The collapse of

Communism in the USSR

opened huge markets for

capitalism. But it hasn't

David Hearst believes,

it probably never will

gloom of a landing

metyevo's Airport, the British Airways flight

from London was packed with

still flew over the Kremlin -

but it only needed the merest

of political events, a secret

meeting between the presi-dents of Russia, Ukraine and

Belarus, for the symbol of the

My neighbour was a Belgian

businessman who boasted to his colleague that the hangar

that loomed large as the plane

thumped its way towards the end of the runway was

"theirs". They had bought the

whole thing, or so they thought. Beside him was a

German who was buying up Orders of Lenin or the Red Banner of Labour from cash-

starved war veterans; and be-

side him was a man who

called himself "a missionary

from the Lord".

They were missionaries for

no one but themselves. The

democratic values they

thought they were importing

to Russia have been blown away, and the result is the

sort of histrionic but funda-

mentally dangerous medieval

feuding that we have seen

this week. Watching the play

of Ivan the Terrible is indeed a good way for the ousted security chief Alexander

Lebed to begin his first days in the political wilderness.

cow, susceptible to the claim that things have not turned

out under Boris Yeltsin quite

the way they had intended, have erected a temporary

Commentary

Woollacott

Martin

wooden palisade around their rather exposed positions. It consists of three arguments. Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, per-formed a similar political op-

Argument Number One: After 75 years of communism in which Russia was practically a militarised state, it would be folly to expect the transi-

tion period to go smoothly or quickly. It took 300 years to create the English lawn. Statesmen were performing a

There's no arguing with that. task better suited to the presi-Defence Number Two: dential press service. They

Western embassies in Mos-

happened like that - and,

How the

East was

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in New Zealand LECTIONS in Anglo-Saxon countries have taken a strange turn recently. Such events as the virtual disappearance of a major party, as in Can-ada, huge landslides for the E STATE OF THE STA right, as in the American con-gressional elections, and the expulsion from office of left parties for pursuing right-wing policies, as in Australia and New Zealand, suggest a

There are occasional demands that the New Right programme be pursued with with the Gingrich revolution, changes and the multi-cultural, sexual, gender, and the other end of the political green revolutions is one of mer Labour prime minister.

shift of power The political scene is domi-

nated by the debate over how the social damage done by New Right measures can be alleviated without attempting to reverse most of the changes that were made. Whether a reconciliation of this kind between the new ruthless economics and the old social values is possible must be doubtful, but it is the big question of the next few years in all these countries. This is what accounts for the evasiveness of Tony Blair and the magpie policy-thefts of Bill Clinton. The New Right message that government is not good at doing a whole range of things that it used to attempt has seeped into the collective mind, producing they were players to become more free wheeling and autonomous actors. This overlap between New Right

spectrum there are voices the most interesting develop-calling for a return to the sys-tematically interventionist on both sides of the left-right social democratic state, but divide. Some, like Michael support for this is limited. has become a device for distracting attention from class conflict. Others see genuine liberation.

New Zealand's recent elec-tion offers an example of how difficult it is to cast politics back to a time before the New Right. New Zealanders voted against the governments, first Labour and then National, which ruled them from 1984, because those governments re-made the country in the New Right mould without reference to an electorate which had not wanted or discussed such changes. They also voted for a change to proportional representation, again as a protest, moving the goalposts and New Zealand, suggest new volatility.

With elections again approaching in the United States and Britain, old political categories are shifting and blurring. What links the situations in the various Anglosaxon countries is the business of taking stock after New Right breakthroughs of vary-Right breakthroug on the politicians just as the politicians had moved the cian, leading a party, New Zealand First, which secured

only a fragment of the non-Maori vote and which is, ac-

Keep any eye on this powerful as he looks. New Zealanders would punish him looks. The contradiction is a critical one. The majority of votat the next election if he made unreasonable demands on the senior partner in a coalition, whether Labour or National. and they would punish any party which gave in to such

Consigned to history . . . Lenin out, McDonald's in. But for the Russian economy, where's the beef?

I remember an old man

staggering drunk up to the kiosk where I stopped to buy beer in a village outside Mos-

cow. The sight of foreigners travelling freely outside Mos-

cow was still new. Even the word "foreigner" in Russian

had the same ponderous reso-

nance that it had in Britain 40

years ago in the days when Benidorm was a fishing vil-

lage and "wogs" were still deemed to start in Calais.

the sight of a battered Volvo produced an exaggerated ef-fect on him: "Marvellous,

these English cars. You know

we were told for so long how

stupid your Queen was, and how clever our Central Com-

mittee was. But you know we

were the fools all along." That

Self-abasement, rejection of Russia's past, even its cyrillic

script in favour of English-

language advertisements. It is bere that nationalism was

born as a creed that would

take over from communism.

was the mood of the times.

The man was drunk, and

cow was littered with the

icons of the new free-market messiah. Giant Coca-Cola

cans were placed along Gorky Street, Moscow's main

thoroughfare, which was

renamed Tverskaya. All the

names of the streets were

changed, and for a time no

one could tell where they

were on the Metro. The stop

McDonald's

that had been known for 40 years as Prospect Marx sud-denly became Hunter's Row

from the time hunters used to

sell their fowl outside the Bol-shoi, but no one had then the

foggiest idea what it meant. McDonald's restaurant chain

opened right opposite Push-kin's statue, and when an-

other branch opened right

next to Pushkin's house in the Arbat, Boris Yeltsin him-

ers do not want, or believe possible, a reversal of the fun-

damental changes that have been made, changes which en-

hanced the power of business

battered the unions, widened the income gap, and scaled down the powers and reach of

the state. But they do want

the unpleasant social effects tidied up by this same dimin-

ished state, an entity which must now assess every move

in terms of the signal it sends

to "global business". The apostles of the New Right creed have so effectively sold

to New Zealanders the notion that the country is now the

favourite son of international

self came to open it.

ity privy to. This does not go | investment, was painful to |

unnoticed by the Russian people, who are not having a

good time of it, however much one tries to talk up the

arrival of the free market and

big-business capital in Mos-cow and St Petersburg. Advo-

cates of the "trickle-down theory" should ask them-

selves how much of this

newly created wealth has

trickled down to within 100 kilometres of Moscow, St Pe-

tersburg, Nizhni Novgorod, Yekaterinburg, and Vladivos-

tok - and to whom. The

successive election results showed a country polarised

politically and geographi-cally; and there is no reason

to assume that with the

arrival of Lebed, the political division between areas where

and those areas still in the pit of stagnation has gone.

In late 1991 and early 1992, the enthusiasm of the plane-

load of free-market missionar-

les was matched only by the idealism and naivety of their

Russian hosts. Their belief in

what the future held in store.

Defence Number Two: dential press service. They how wealth would instantly Right or wrong, democrat or o, there was no practical lie they were in all probabil- sia on a great tide of Western are sensitive to symbols. Mos-

The sudden liberation of Maoris from their long connection with the Labour Party, however, is one of those shifts to greater auton-omy for minorities already mentioned. It will probably prove permanent. Away from the Winston Peters drama, what the New Zealand elec-tion showed is of interest to all the developed English-speaking democracies. A majority voted for parties which capital that almost everybody do not wish and have not has been influenced by it. All

A majority voted for parties which do not wish to reverse the changes of the last 12 years but only to soften their impact expect some improvements in promised to reverse the

changes of the last 12 years but only, to one degree or an-other, to soften their social impact. The two parties which did promise such reversals, the Alliance, which wants a thoroughgoing resto-ration of the welfare state and unanswered. the buying back of some soldoff state assets, and New Zealand First, which has a stmilar but more dilute policy on some benefits and on assets like the state forests, did not 800,000, was neverthless a do very well. The attitude of New Zealand voters seems to the Australian colonies, it be that what's done is done. and that what has been lost to | importance for humanity, as

social policy, whether a Labour or a National coalition takes power. But the question of how far such improvements can go without triggering a counter attack is

The pride of New Zealanders is a curious factor here. The historian Keith Sinclair recalled in one of his essays that "in 1900, New Zealand, with a population of less than great country. With some of stood for something of central business, or sold off to for- was widely recognised. It was as dissipated.

Zealand welfare state, and at a broad democracy that included votes for women long before that was achieved elsewhere. This earlier welfare state was re-built and ex-tended in the late 30s. Having pioneered one political way. New Zealanders felt they could pioneer another. A small country's confidence in its capacity to go first, since after all it had done so once before, helped the New Right thrusters to get their way. In the process much has been lost. The most basic loss has been that New Zealand, which had always had a

rived, but the belief that the West would help Russia has

gone. With it has also died

any faith that democratic val-

ues are the right ones for

crisis-ridden Russia today.

Lebed describes himself as "half a democrat", and it can

only be an outside chance that the strong hand that Rus-sia's battered working class

done, for the greater good of keeping the assorted commu-nists and fascists holed up in

the building out of power. Yes, it is politically harmful

virtually to exclude the middle ground of opinion

from state television, in an effort to persuade the people that it's a choice between the

world". Those visitors came to wonder at the early New

strong state, now has a weaker one. As the left-wing political scientist Jane Kelsey has pointed out in her powerful book on the New Zealand experiment, Economic Funda-mentalism, now neither the political right nor the left has the same possibilities of im-posing its will as before. Not all of what has been done is irreversible. But it would be uphill work. And a weaker ruling institution has to at-tempt to meet public expectations which, even if subverted by ideas about the irrelevance or incompetence of govern-ment, still, actually, expect governments to set things to rights. New Zealand, which is a lucky country with a small

population, may be able to manage this contradiction better than other nations. It could also come to be seen as a marker in the process in which power in the world has not so much been transferred

'The West argued in the worst moments

that the ends justified the means'

of the Yeltsin years

a stage many early capitalist states go through. That argument was made by an Ameri-In the light of the efforts the FBI has made to highlight the dangers of Russian interna-tional crime, it is an ironic

Political pluralism, the rule of law, the distribution of power, fair elections, an independent media or free access to nationwide television in an election period — all of these principles have been quietly forgotten about in the cause

of the Greater Good.
The prism through which
Russians see the West and
interpret its intentions has turned. It takes no great depth of imagination to see how the patriotically minded might interpret the expansion of Nato as a threat. During perestroika, Mikhail Gorba-chev sold nuclear-arms reduction at home as an element of the "new political thinking" that was overtaking the old cold-war partners.

Where is the "new political thinking" in Nato's expan-sion east? Nato itself contin-ues to be a military-led and US-dominated alliance. All Russian attempts to form a new European-based security structure have so far come to nothing. It is simply a non-starter, Russia is told. Is it surprising that Russian military strategists, faced with a weakened conventional de-fence, should ask themselves why Russia should destroy its best land-based multiple-war-headed missiles, when America intends to restart the race by developing a new anti-bal-listic missile defence system? The military tables have turned. It was once the West whose reliance on the nuclear shield was justified by the overwhelming number of Soviet tanks facing them. The same argument is now being used by Russia in reverse.

The missionaries have long since flown home. The quick bucks have been made, and what Russian industry needs is investors, not asset-strippers. It is clear that whoever becomes the next president of Russia, the basis for a nondemocratic, authoritarian regime has already been laid.

everything is excused in the aim of keeping Gennady Zyu-ganov, leader of a broad alli-The jury is out about how the next president of Russia will behave internationally. It was clearly not our intention to create an unstable Russia, playing the role in Europe of the dirty neighbour at the bottom of the garden who Yes, more people died in Chechenia than at any time since Afghanistan War, but Russia is still allowed to become a member of Council of
Europe. We protest about the
tactics used, but not too
loudy. Yes, the collapse of the
tense Western effort: did we win the East or are we just



THIS WEEK'S ESSAYIST, David Hearst correspondent since March 1992. Hearst, aged 41, worked at the Scotsman before joining the Guardian as a home news reporter in 1984. He has been Northern Ireland Correspondent, and has reported from Yugoslavia and Kurdistan

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Turbulence for Tupolev as Russian flag-carrier buys from Boeing

Industry needs engine

alent of freezing fog has enveloped Rusaircraft industry. needs to modernise some 1,600 aircraft, but its fac-tories are idle, crippled

The state coffers are empty and the jobs of 750,000 aircraft workers and at least as many again in ancillary industries a labour force three times the size of Boeing, McDonnell Douglas and Airbus Indus-tries put together — are in the

Hardly surprising then that when Yevgeny Shasposhni-kov, the Soviet Union's last defence minister and now the aggressive director of Aero-flot-Russian International Airlines, announced a decision to buy 10 Boeing 737-400 jets, the wall of anguish could be heard from Tatarstan all the way up the Volga river to Ulyanovsk, an industrial belt where most of the aircraft in-

dustry is based. Shaposhnikov's reply was typically robust: "On all the ssemblies, meetings and sessions they are saying, 'Sharior (Russian) planes, the ob-stinate marshal must be changed.' Well the same thing

happened in Stalin's time.
Stalin asked the commander of the Red Army airforce. General Rychagov, why there were so many accidents in the airforce. Back came the answer, "Because we are forced to fly crude aircraft." The general closed his mouth. Forever. I was the 17th commander-in-chief of the Soviet military airforce. Eight of my redecessors were shot."

With a government, para-lysed by bitter faction fight ing in the Kremlin, unable and unwilling to intervene, it seems things could not get much worse.

A new generation of twin-engined Tupolev 204s and 214s and four-engined longin the factories half-built. The airframes are of international quality and the wing design arguably better than on Boeings and Airbuses.

But the reliability of the engines — in particular the PS90 — were the main prob-lem. Shaposhnikov said that for every PS90 on Aeroflot's six long-range Ilyushin 96 airliners he had to keep three poshnikov is not a patriot! sets of spare parts in reserve.

And if he will continue to in-



When the Red Army airforce commander blamed the number of accidents on being forced to fly crude aircraft, Stalin closed his mouth . . . forever

smiling confident Egyptian businessman with \$100 million (£63 million) of financial come, and long experience of working with the Soviet

He is not the first to see the gap in the market and its prize — how to fit western engines, avionics and interiors into Russian airframes and produce Western-quality air-craft at two-thirds the price of a Boeing or Airbus. Other so-range Tu-204 to the tried and

negotiations between Avias-tar, Russia's biggest plant in Ulyanovsk, and General Electric to provide engines for the

But the plans of Dr Ibrahim Kamel, chairman of Kato Aromatic, an Egyptian conglomerate which, as the name im-plies, started life as a perfume manufacturer, are by far the most ambitious. He is not just

lliar tale of Russian woe, a called hybrid projects include | tested Rolls Royce RB211 en-smiling confident Egyptian negotiations between Avias- gine — but to create the en-businessman with \$100 mil- tar, Russia's biggest plant in tire infrastructure for buying. leasing, marketing and servicing the aircraft.

Kato is even going to put modern galleys and lavato-ries, seat fabric and oxygen equipment on the Tupolevs. "I have flown in too many Aeroflot flights before," Dr

Kato Aromatic is thinking big. An order for 13 firm and 17 option aircraft is worth, at

of business for Rolls Royce. After that, another 170 aircraft could be made. Kato has \$30 million in a bank waiting, pending a government bank guarantee, to be given to Aviastar. Russia's biggest plant in Ulyanovsk, to start production rolling, and the first set of RB 211 engines ar-

rived in Ulyanovsk in July. "I have always believed that Russia will live and I still

later will be a super economic power. Of course, the pains of this period of transition are enormous and, for anybody who does not know this country, it would be fantastic to conceive of a project this size. But we know this industry can't be left to die."

The problems are enormous. The \$30 million kickstart money has been held up for months because the Rus-

Russian abcraft sports Rolls-Royce engines rather than those made locally

director of Aviastar, is being hit for back taxes:

There is no co-ordinated policy from above and indi-vidual plants which produce different variants of the Tupolev aircraft are forced to com-pete with each other for the

contracts with Aeroflot.

Konstantin Titov, head of administration of Samara Region, the home of Avia-corps, which made the Tu 154, ing to put together a lobby of aircraft manufacturers.

Mr Titov is for pragmatisi "If we are spending \$340 mil-lion buying Boeing, all I say is let's spend a little of this money ducing spare parts for Boeing hydraulics, hatches. Let's make Boeing deploy more orders and spend \$100 million of that

He understands Shap kov's desire for modern reforms in Russia, we need stability and social peace. How do you persuade one mil lion workers about the advan-tages of the market economy And who will fly on Shaposnikov's planes in his native

country when people are without salaries?" If, and it is a big if, Russia's aircraft industry can get its act together the prize could be enormous. A third player would emerge in the battle between Boeing and Airbus. The world's largest aircraft production facilities are al-

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The Norman conquest arriving at Platform 3

A French company is taking over the southern railways.

Keith Harper takes the train

years after William the Conqueror, the French have landed again on the before them en route to Vic-

toria and Charing Cross. This time they are led by Compagnie Générale des Eaux, a French multinational with an annual turnover of \$20 billion and a world-wide labour force of 219,000. On Monday, they opened up the second of their rail franchises in the UK, Connex South Eastern, the old British Rail commuter services serving

Kent and West Sussex. CGEA is running Connex South Central, the neighbouring part of the south-east coastrail system, and is quickly achieving a dominant position in the capital. There are no croissants for passen-gers but the company hopes

to stamp its image on the pub-lic's mind with new trains, improved services and en-hanced station facilities.

Connex is not the most customer friendly name, sounding more like one of those anonymous waste disposal companies CGEA has set up in Britain, but it is likely to become more famous. Antoine Hurel, Connex

Rail's chief executive, is not resting on his laurels. He is managing director of CFTA, a long established private sectowards London sweeping all | tor train operator in Europe, and project director for rall joint ventures in Portugal, Sweden and Germany. He also managed the New York Penn station project to improve access for suburban and main line trains.

Connex, therefore, is casting its eyes at other BR pas-senger franchises. Another London area and one large regional railway are favourite targets. CGEA is not likely to bid for the west coast main line between London and Glasgow, though Mr Hurel said no final decision had

been taken. The French are very com-fortable running a private railway under tightly regulated state control. It means

they can concentrate on the while core decisions are taken out of their hands.

Europe, its transport division employs 20,000 staff. It protions in France, including Calais, Royen, Bordeaux and Le Havre, and runs 520 miles of track under contract from French national railways and

Set up almost 150 years ago to provide drinking water for Franch cities, the group has munications, construction

Running a large part of London's commuter network will not be easy. It is taking which has suffered from years of under-investment. So the promise of a £400 million investment programme over the next ten years to replace clapped out old rolling stock is encouraging. But the French like the British, may have to learn that with limited market potential, it will take years of patience to obtain, healthy financial

600m

Inds to haste

Hungary's media sell-off

European groups gather as radio and cessions and the investment arm of Holland's ABN-Amro TV stations go under the hammer

Zsofia Kaplar and Rodney Jefferson

INTERNATIONAL media companies, including Lux-embourg-based CLT Multi Media, part of the consortlum that won the rights to Brit-ain's Channel 5, and the Daily Mail Group, are poised to move into Hungary's broadcast media market when the government publishes a long awaited tender for two televi-sion and two radio stations in

France's TF1. German publishing company WAZ and Scandinavian Broadcasting System, SBS, are also expected to bid, after the Hungarian government finalises key details such as state-imkey details such as state-im-posed broadcasting and fre-quency fees later this month. trian investment bank Credit-anstalt Securities to manage the sale of the television con-

The two 10-year television concessions include MTV2, one of Hungary's two over-staffed and under-funded state terrestrial television stations. Local media analysts estimated each TV concession to be worth between \$60 million and \$100 million.

Hungary's media bill, passed this year, states that the two TV channels and two radio frequencies, Danubius and a brand new one, must be out of state hands by January 1. However, the law failed to consider how the government was to sell them, which de-

layed the tender.

The government now has help. In August, Hungary's new television and radio com-mission, ORTT, selected Aus-

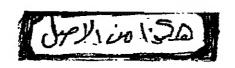
to manage the sale of the seven-year radio concessions. Foreigners after a radio station, like the Daily Mail Group, can bid alone, but

those interested in the television stations must bid with a Hungarian media company. Nap TV and MTM Communications, two Hungarian programme-makers, said they were discussing bids with for

cluding CLT and SBS. "I'm open," said Tamas Gyarfas, president and owner tional media companies) have visited us, but we have a com-

mon feeling we need to know the tender details first." entatives from the range of potential foreign bidders, local media companies and the Hungarian govern-ment are meeting in Budapest this weekend to discuss the





Battle for chemist hots up Keep medicine out of price war

Alex Brummer

AVING helped batter the last remaining bas-tion of retail price main-

drugs - the Asda boss, Archie

sunset as consumer champion and Tory MP.

mounted by Asda, in reducing the prices of food supple ments and popular pain relievers like paracetamol encouraged the director gen eral of fair trading, John Bridgeman, to refer the mat-

ter to the Restrictive Practices Court. It was the court that 26 years ago put in place the orders which allowed

manufacturers to enforce

in general terms, any moves that liberalise rigged markets — and there are now

very few in Britain — are to be applauded. They should mean lower prices for the

consumer, lower overall infla-tion and higher demand for

the products, which creates

Some supermarket shop-

pers will recognise that, as margins are later restored,

the fresh fruit they buy in

minimum prices.

more Jobs.

greengrocer.

Patrick Donov

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TWO-WAY battle for Britain's second-largest high street pharmacist Lloyds Chemist was reignited yesterday after UniChem launched £657.6 million hostile takeover offer within minutes of being given the go-ahead by the Department of Trade and

The German pharmaceuti cal wholesaler Gehe was yes terday widely expected to pitch in a rival bid. The company said that it was evaluating its position

Hostilities have resumed following the DTPs accep-

Gene would sell parts of the bid target's chain if their takeover offers were success-

The Monopolies and Merg ers Commission made this a condition in July after referring previous bids for Lloyds by both companies.

Consumer affairs minister

John Taylor declared he was "satisfied that Unichem and Gehe have given undertakings as required . . to remedy the competition concerns identified by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission

UniChem last night said a successful bid would give it a

ance that both UniChem and | Trading decision to lift price sehe would sell parts of the controls on branded drugs had "virtually" no bearing on

the valuation of the offer. UniChem, which is better ing its previous bid by £30 million, is offering 16 new UniChem shares plus 926p in cash for every 10 Lloyds shares. That places a value of 505.4p on the bid target's shares. UniChem shares surged 17p to 521.5p on expec-tation of a higher offer from Gehe. Shares in Lloyds eased 9.5p to 248.5p. Gehe share trading in Frankfurt was off DM2 at DM109.

Lloyds Chemists yesterday declined to comment. "We have not yet resolved what 13 per cent stake in the UK's retail chemists market—second only to Boots. It added that yesterday's Office of Fair than Fellows. "I would hope

the next few days.'

UniChem, which already wns nearly 10 per cent of the takeover target, confirmed that as part of its agreement with the MMC it would sell part of the Lloyds business if the bid succeeded. This includes sale of the warehouse operations and divestment of specialist cosmetic shops.

Jeffery Harris, UniChem's

chief executive, insisted the deal would be "materially earnings-enhancing within 12 months". It could result in cost savings of more than £15 million in the first 12 months, rising to £20 million

thereafter.

Mr Harris added: "Our acquisitions".

He said: "This is especially its estimate true in the light of Lloyds current yes presents a great opportunity Chemists' reduced profitabil- 15 per cent.

bidding round was halted by

the MMC. Gehe had tabled an

offer worth around £650 mil-lion. Mr Kammerer attacked

UniChem's bid, claiming that

the predator lacked "experi-ence in integrating major

for both sets of shareholders We believe that our extensive for synergies as a result of the retail expertise, together with our unparalleled pharmaceu-tical distribution capabilities, Gehe, which is a pan-Euro-

pean force in the retail pharmaceutical market, is already the fourth-biggest player in will greatly enhance both the British high street chemists market following its ac-Dieter Kammerer, Gehe chairman, declined to say how his company would respond, although it is widely expected to proceed with a counter-bld. Before the last quisition in April of AAH.

The company is expected to await the impact of the new offer on the UniChem share price before tabling a rival

Yesterday the company directed its energies into highlighting the weaknesses in UniChem's bid. The company said that UniChem's own broker had downgraded its estimate for the company's current year earnings by

ing Thomson with GEC's core electronics business,

That has proved not to be the case. The French Lagar-dere group, which already nership with British Aerospace, has emerged as the successful candidate for a trade deal — which the French gov-

The icing on the cake was the promise by an outside player in all of these manoeuvrings. Daewoo, to take charge of Thomson's consumer electronics and double the number of jobs. A charge Norman, can sail off into the the number of jobs. A chance not to be missed for the There can be little doubt that the direct action Chirac administration.

sumption that the approved deal must be better for BAe than GEC, the game is by no means over. GEC has some hence the appointment this week of Jack Fryer to the same post of strategic direc-tor that he held when he worked alongside Sumpson at Lucas. Fryer has played a key role in stitching together LucasVerity, following the transatlantic merger that has made that company a global player in automative and

Simpson also has brought in a new personnel chief, Rob Meakin of BAe, another of Simpson's previous workplaces. He presumably will be looking at ways in which GEC's culture — built in the image of Arnold Weinstock -

may need modernising.
The new Simpson team will Tesco or Waltrose has become a great deal more pricey than that bought directly from the Putting this aside, however.

non-prescription drugs In the recent past GEC has set its cap at BAe's defence interests. As the supplier of remain a special case. In the first instance it is perhaps not too sensible that a packet of pain relievers, or some of the strong drugs that have gone non-prescription, should be sold off as cheaply as a tube of Smarties. Making potential drug abuse cheaper does not seem any more sensible than removing a slice of the excise duties on cigarettes. But the real issue is what effect such a move would have on the pharmacy trade. The larger retailers, like Boots, — which has been moving back into the high

facturing capacity to take on Asda and the rest as they move into classic price-cutting mode. But most of the pharmacies in Britain are iota Locted II community bealth care. Take away the margins they earn on non-presciption medicines and the elderly and

the young may find them-selves having to travel much further to deal with their medical needs. There may well be room for lower prices in food supplements such as vitamins and iron, which have been a large part of the Asda campaign. But non-prescription drugs

street with smaller stores have the buying and manu

has caused lending to fall to £3.5 billion, the lowest since Simon Briscoe, the chief economist at Nikko, said this should be treated differently. weaker credit demand can-celled out the strong money

were therefore not compatible with higher inflation. Jonathan Loynes of HSBC Greenwell said: "As long as M4 holds above the monitor ing range, Eddie George will continue to point at it as a

reason to hike rates."
But Mr Loynes pointed to a slowdown in the growth of consumer credit and more

public sector element was off-

Euro champions supply growth and the figures

> FTER the initial bout of negative publicity over the potential size of his pay packet, George Simpson got down to work at GEC apparently determined not to make any waves. It would, of course, have been helpful had the French government chosen this week to sell its defence and electronics group, Thomson SA, to GEC's key business partner Alcatel Alsthom, thereby offering the

ernment sees as a key part of its defence restructuring.

Despite the widespread as-

Just to emphasize that change is on the way, Mr

be as alert as its predecessors in recognising the need for GEC to lock itself into some broader defence alliances

much of the electronic kit to BAe's military output, GEC-Marconi will always have an ongoing interest. Moreover, it is not without cards in the Largardère deal. GEC holds some 2.4 per cent of the equity, has a joint satellite deal with Matra and a joint sonar deal with Thomson. It will have plenty of opportuni-ties, if it wants them, to cut itself into the next, decisive round of creating a European iefence champion.

Nikkei challenge

HERE are some market optimists who believe that tomorrow's Japaness elections - the least reported in any G7 country will trigger a recovery in the Nikkei. While equity markets

around the world, led by New York, are booming away, the Nikkei has been stuck in the doldrums since 1991 and is no higher now than it was at the time of the 1987 crash. That may look to the brave like a buying opportunity, when other equity and bond markets are overvalued. Perhaps. But the much-forecast Japanese economic recovery has

remained elusive - although the IMF is predicting 3.5 per cent growth this year, the best performance in any G7 country. More worrying, how-ever, is that the banking and property bangover still has not cleared. Japanese corporations which have reorganised for a strong yen, by shifting production offshore, now face a much cheaper one.

Muscovites are introduced to the Western pastime of watching a movie while eating popcorn and drinking Coca-Cola. Kodak Cinema World, a new 42,000sq ft retail and entertainment complex, will show dubbed first-run European and Hollywood films and the work of Russia's own movie-makers — and sell videos to offset a huge black market.

Cable firms planning for £600m link-up

Patrick Donavisu City Editor

ELL Cablemedia looks set to become the most powerful force in the fast-expanding British cable television market by clinching control of rival Videotron In a deal worth an estimated £600 million according to well placed City sources last night. The Anglo-Canadian com-pany is understood to have won the deal in a three-way

auction against Germany's Deutsche Telekom and Interational CableTel, another British cable operator. Dutch telecom operator NTT is understood to have been interested but to have

pulled out towards the final stages of the biddding.

News of the transaction is expected to be released over the next few days. The company last night was not returning calls.

Taking control of Video-tron, in which Bell Cablemedia already holds a 26 per cent stake, gives the bidder the chance to increase radi-cally its penetration of the UK market. It is Britain's third biggest cable TV company. Its main shareholders are Bell Canada which has a 42 per cent stake and Cable & Wire-

less, which holds nearly 13

Merging with Videotron will give Bell Cablemedia access into lucrative cable franchises in the City and the Thames Valley. Videotron's UK division reported a net loss of £7.8 million in the quarter to May 31 against a loss of £2.7 million in the same period a year ago. It blamed the deepening deficit on higher interest expenses and unrealised foreign ex-change losses. But it also disclosed that it has been in-

creasing its market share. The stake was put up for ale by Videotron's parent, a Montreal-based cable company. The Canadian company is understood to be planning to concentrate on the newly liberalised US market. Bell Cablemedia has

recently shaken up its management team by a series of top-level appointments. The company boosted revenues for the first six month of the year by £15.5 million to £33.3 million. It has impressed analysts by reporting better retention of existing customers at a time when it is build-

which could run to hundreds

of millions of pounds -- was

one that needed to be

The Government made it a

merged into the state-owned

addressed soon.

Major admits debt is too high as Clarke struggles to find tax cut cash

Richard Thomas

OHN MAJOR admitted yesterday that the bur-den of government was a "blot on the horizon" of an otherwise bealthy, low-inflation economy.

As the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarks, completed a meeting with his advisers on options for next month's Budget, the Prime Minister said Britain had managed to achieve stronger economic growth than European competitors without igniting prices.
But he told a meeting of

businessmen in Cheimsford that borrowing was too high.
The only aconomic blot on the horizon is the size of the fiscal deficit." he said. "That is a problem." His admission followed a

accused of

his employer

Mark Tran in New York

model investigator when it

engaged James Dougherty,

a Miami lawyer, to crack a

multimillion-dollar inter-national insurance racket.

tirelessly for the insurance market. He travelled to cen-

tral America, Europe and

the Middle East to uncover

the activities of Munther

Bilbeisi, a Lebanese busi-

nessman then living in

Boca Raton, Florida, who had flooded Lloyd's with

Between 1989 and 1992,

Mr Dougherty defeated

suspect claims.

Mr Dougherty worked

cheating

borrow £3.5 billion despite a PFI spending in 1996-97 — but | battle to force Mr Clarke to | 51 billion privatisation wind- | serious delays with projects | fall — and highlighted Mr | in the health sector mean that | However, some economists | the Government is struggling | said that the increase in the

some spare cash for tax cuts. According to the Treasury. Mr Clarke's Budget arithmetic is also being complicated by the slow progress in start-ing work on the Private Fi-

in the health sector mean that However, some economists the Government is struggling said that the increase in the The Bank of England said yesterday that higher-thanexpected borrowing had forced up its broad measure ing work on the Private Fi- of money supply, M4. Over nance initiative projects the year to September, M4 in-

'Only economic blot on the horizon is the size of the fiscal deficit'

nounce at a conference on Monday that £7 billion of pro-jects have been earmarked, but behind the scenes he is concerned that the agree-

agreed by the Government. | creased by 9.8 per cent — well The Chancellor will an | above the Government's monitoring range of 3 to 9 per cent. State borrowing ac-

City analysts said Eddle His admission followed a ments are not being transdisappointing public borrowing figure for September — When the state was forced to Clarke forecast £1.9 billion of supply as ammunition in his consumer credit and more subdued mortgage lending as signs that the domestic economy would not trigger price rises.

New cancer study

Researchers claim to have established

NEW study purporting to show a definitive link between smoking and cancer sent the embattled

findings, published in the journal Science, may provide fresh ammunition for class or group action suits in Britain and the US that could lead to ing a single penny in damages billions of dollars worth of in all the law suits it has compensation payments from | faced over the years. the tobacco companies to smokers and former smokers. they would not worsen the

said. "Much of the evidence we have that smoking causes lung cancer is circumstantial. although extremely strong. It's really good to have some definitive evidence to support

lic health experts have long believed that smoking causes lung cancer, on the basis of the statistical evidence accumulated over the years. But cigarette makers have been able to argue that al-

Research workers and pub-

though smoking may be a fac tor in cancer there is no evidence of a direct cause. That argument has helped the tobacco industry to avoid pay-

But now two teams of scientists at a Californinan research institute say they have shown precisely how a chemical in cigarette smoke On Wall Street, shares of can damage a gene that othercell growth, the hallmark of cancer. A series of laboratory experiments in Texas and

News in brief **Going for** brokers

Gerrard & National Holdings, discount house and brokers, said yesterday it has agreed to buy rival King & Shaxson Holdings for £53.7 million. The takeover would create the UK's largest brokerage for private investors, Gerrard Group Plc, with almost £10 billion under manage ment. — Bloomberg

On the wagons

Stagecoach, the bus and rail company, avoided a monopoits £475.6 million nurchase of Porterbrook, a rail carriage leasing company, after accepting government competition limits. — Bloomberg

Henderson Investors' decision to reject TI Group's bid for Sweden's Forsheda engi-

TI hard to stop

neering company is unlikely to stop the deal, analysts said. Cross-media merger

Scottish Television announced the formal go-ahead of its £120 million takeover of Caledonian, publishers in Glasgow of the Herald and the

Olivetti shores up its boardroom

TALY'S troubled Oliverti has appointed four new directors to its board in an fort to head off mounting criticism by investors many of them London-based institutions — amid a fresh wave of selling that drove down its share price more than 5 per cent yesterday, writes John Glover in Milan. The new directors include Dario Trevisan, a Milan lawyer who specialises in representing foreign shareholders in Italian companies. London institutions have been pushing for him to be appointed since Olivetti expressed its willingness to bring in a rep-

shareholders. The other new board members are Gordon Owen, chairman of Energis and Acorn Computers, in which Olivetti has a stake; French financier Gérard Worms; and Bruno Lamborghini, deputy chair-

resentative of its outside

man of Olivetti Telemedia, the group's telecoms unit. About 5,000 Olivetti employees staged a demonstration in Rome yesterday to call for a "credible plan to rebuild and relaunch" the group.

Magnox chief pleads for funds to hasten marger issue of financial support

industrial Editor

1

funding to British Nuclear tric, the atomic power generator, by April 1998.

terday urged to make an fundamental part of its plans to privatise British Energy, the nuclear company that early commitment to provide Fuels so that it can merge its owns the country's eight most operation with Magnox Elecmodern atomic reactors, that Magnox should eventually be

Mark Baker, chairman of Magnox Electric, said that the | nuclear waste group, BNFL

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS Australia 1,9330 France 8.00 Belglum 48.80 ireland 0.9645 israel 5.14 mark 9.1260

France 8.00 hair 2,392 Singapore 2.19
Germany 2,3725 Maila 0,5595 South Africa 7.00
Netherlands 2,8645 Spain 199.65
New Zealand 2,1940 Sweden 10,37
India 56.55 Norwey 10.10 Switzerland 1.04 Norway 10.10 Portugal 240.50 Saudi Arabia 5.91

those bogus claims in court. In one episode, Mr Bilbeisi tried to collect millions after falsely reporting been switched for a lower its money's worth, there is grade. Mr Dougherty also no doubt about that."

foiled a multi-million-dol-lar claim for a lost Chinese Fraud-busting vase and Oriental rugs that lawyer stands were worth far less. Mr Dougherty saved Lloyd's millions but in the process was swindling the

market out of millions, ac-cording to Lloyd's statements in a law suit filed in Miami. Lloyd's alleges that Mr Dougherty put in huge and false expenses claims. Lioyd's and Mr Dougherty fell out in April 1992. "This case is ironic be-LOYD'S, the embattled insurance market, ap-peared to have discovered a

cause a lawyer engaged to uncover a swindle is accused of swindling his own client," Thomas Mulvi-hill, the prosecuting attor-ney, said. "Dougherty billed the underwriters who hired him for hundreds of hours that were never worked. Be-fore 1992, he never prepared time slips." If convicted, Mr Dou-

gherty could face time in prison, a \$2 million (£1.25 million) fine and be forced to pay restitution. The case is expected to run until the end of the year. In his opening statement, Mr Dougherty's attorney, Miguel Caridad, said: "My client paid much of the money for investigations that a high-grade shipment and for witness payments of Guatemalan coffee had in Guatemala. Lloyd's got

definitive link,

Mark Tran reports

around 5 per cent.

hits tobacco firms

tobacco industry reeling yes The American research

But some US analysts insisted tobacco firms' legal position. Philip Morris and other wise prevents out-of-control tobacco companies fell by

"It's an exciting finding," Kenneth Olden, director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, damage a gene known as p53. Evening Times. Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

The lost picture shows

Britain's film makers need Kenneth Clarke to be a hero and he is reading from a different script. But LISA BUCKINGHAM finds die-hard campaigners never give up

would have ab-seiled into Great brandishing a sub-machine gun to extract forcibly a multimillion pound ransom from cowering boards of stuffy

Treasury mandarins. Real life film advocates will find the terrain far harder going. The Chancellor is tucking away every last penny in order to fund a last ditch grasp at election victory with income tax cuts. Many canny lobbyists have already given up the ghost, deciding that largesse for their industries will have to wait.

Yet next week the UK film Industry — no doubt jauntily packing reels of Four Weddings and a Funeral under its arms — will deliver what it regards as its best shot for years at persuading Kenneth Clarke to provide handouts

The Inland Revenue vesterday expected to sign off a joint study with the British Screen Advisory Council into much more generous tax breaks. The investigation is believed to reveal that if film makers can write off all their production costs in one year, would provide a tax payback within about 18 months. But that could be too long for

leading lights still reckon this is their best chance to create

RUCE WILLIS | a level playing field on subsi- | a £200 million aeorodrome dies to transform the current mini-boom into sustainable growth rather than — as has happened with monotonous regularity - see the bubble burst as the Yanks leave

> Tax breaks would encourage investment, and send a psychological signal that the government was prepared to back the industry, they argue. When Britain's global trade influence is declining, film makers argue that pumping culture on to the world's movie screens would be an

apt counter measure.
The British Screen Advisory Council also stresses the spin-off benefits of a strong film industry, such as in-creases in tourism. If Britain could replicate the Crocodile Dundee Effect in Australia, that would mean an extra four million visitors bringing in about £2 billion of extra revenue a vear.

On the surface the British film industry looks quite good. Successes such as Four Weddings and a Funeral and Trainspotting have provided a welcome fillip. And the from fewer than 400 in 1994 to an expected 430 in 1996. And more money is flowing into the sector this year. Last month the Star Wars director George Lucas announced he would shoot three space epics in the UK using British actors and technicians in a £1.3 billion project. They will be shot at Leavesden Studios.

Shepperton Studios was recently acquired by Ridley Scott — director of Bladerunwho produced Thelma and Louise. Another film studio is planned to form part of a joint venture. Hollywood-style, theme park on the outskirts of London, funded by Time Warner in partnership with United News and Media.

Earlier this year the ITV companies said they would invest £100 million in feature film production over the next five years. Already the BBC and Channel 4 are active. with the latter's credits including Trainspotting, Secrets and Lies and Four Weddings and a Funeral, although the profits went to the distributors because, as so often happens, C4 sold the rights.

In addition, the Arts Coun-cil has given the go ahead for of National Lottery money into film production

Overall investment has lion in 1993 to £310 million expected this year. There has also been a greater number of European co-productions, giving British film makers access to EC subsidies.

But the BSAC says: "There ls a lot more activity than for many years but, in real terms we are still only back to the crucially, budgets for individual movies have fallen."



One of the major factors driving the current revival is the good exchange rate. Premila Hoon, director of enter tainment finance at Guinness Mahon — one of the few serious film finance operations in the country — said: "There has been a 100 per cent jump in film production money this year. That is very positive, but does it indicate that a firm trend is emerging and are structures being formed

term recovery?"

Ms Hoon added that most of is the exchange rate, now be-ginning to look less favour-able. "That is a fundamental arbiter of inward investment in films, even though the UK bas an excellent infra-

which will cater for a longer

The price of making films in the US has soared, partly thanks to the stratospheric sums now commanded by Hollywood stars. But powerupped the ante for technicians and other less high profile members of the film team, making Britain look comparatively cheap. It is estimated that a film

can be made for about a third ess in Britain than in the US. But those attractions are When Mel Gibson wanted to make Braveheart, a £29 million film charting the loves and triumphs of Scotland's for Ireland where tax breaks provide a decided financial edge. At present the British government allows production costs to be written off over three years. But reducing this to one year — the break film makers want —

UK film industry needs rethinking before any investment can be successfully con-

verted into a production | whole venture. The industry stream with the strength to

withstand the odd flop. Experts argue that, without fundamental change, the UK will continue to be vulnerable to the Goldcrest factor - the company with so much promise that went belly up after box office failures such as Revolution, which starred Al Pacino, and The Mission. One executive said: "We don't get the subsidies they do

on the Continent and we simply don't have the size or crit-ical mass enjoyed by the

OLLYWOOD is of course, hardly immune to box office turkeys think only of Waterworld, the \$200 million vehicle for Kevin Costner, which ended up splashing red ink all over the But, as Ms Hoon pointed out: "The US studios have very sound businesses under pinned by huge libraries. They are vertically integrated corporations with interests in property, theme parks and television. They produce be-tween 25 and 30 films a year each of which spreads the risk. There might be five dogs, but then you will get a

Terminator and that will carry the failures. The portfolio effect is crucial." Recent financial results from most of the Hollywood giants have been tepid but multi-media revolution speak
— can be made to work over and over again if you own a TV network, and characters can be worth their weight in gold if you can use them as

is highly fragmented, largely composed of individuals and small production groups with the only domestic players of any size, such as the Rank Organisation, virtually mori-bund in terms of current

"We are talking about a very small cottage industry." Ms Hoon said, "There are no economies of scale, no studio system. It is not really a busi-

Despite the artistic con-cerns about Lottery money. and sceptical comments that it is bound to lead to more "jobs for the boys", harder world feel that the award of money to "franchises" could lay the foundations for better integrated businesses — even if these are minuscule in comparison with Hollywood.

There are plenty of directors and technicians who have given up in despair and de-camped to Hollywood. Something more recognis-

REEL FACTS

- British Gim makers have wen a third of all Oscars in the past 20 years
- thirds of films are made in English yet the UK has only 7 per cent of the market, worth £1 billion a year
- The world's film industry generates revenues of about £30 billion a year
- ☐ Tax incentives for the UK industry could create 1,200
- The Amersham hotel bedroom featured in Four Wooddings and a Funeral is booked until the end of next
- Hollywood films. account for 85 per cent of box office takings in the UK
- 🗓 It is 15 years since Colin Welland prodicted a British invasion of Hollywood when he collected the Oscar for Charlots of Fire
- The audio-visual Industry has overtaken aerospace as America's bigges OVOTSOUS GRITIST
- Crocodile Dundee helped increase the number of US touriets to Australia by a fifth
- Merchandising revenues for US office takings by about three to one

There are others who prefer the £20,000 a day in directing plenty of people in the world of film who cherish their independence and feel hugely threatened at the idea that manager might attempt to trim their creative wings.

One production executive said: 'There will be tensions between the creatives and the business executives. But these can be healthy and if one gets the upper hand for too long, there tends to be a sharp swing in the other direction. But if we don't start to think along those lines we will be heading for trouble."

And Ms Hoon concluded: Ultimately, unless we become a business, survival will become a very real question. You can weave wonderful baskets, but that is no use un-



Quick Crossword No. 8261

ably corporate might help to

turn the current trickle of

City money into something

more substantial. The cre-ation of these franchise

groups might also see the UK film industry give birth to

management — something presently in woefully short

supply.

And, although the groups

will, initially be small scale, it

is envisaged that they would

finance and produce a series of five to six movies a year

which, in theory, should pro-

vide an element of safety even

if some of the products failed.

ing about, let alone imposing,

structure on the UK industry

raises is the inevitable show-

down between the luvvies and

the accountants

But the problem about talk-

1 Lift-and-carry vehicle

(4-4.5)8 Figure (7)

9 Freight (5) 10 Washbasin — to fall (4)

11 European republic (8)

13 Cooking ingredients and Instructions (6)

14 Found — copied (6)

17 Motherly (8) 19 Spice — club (4)

21 Stadium (5)

24 Sudden, brief success (5,2,3,3)

22 Copse (7)

1 One may get excited

or keeps cool (3) 2 Derived from Latin (language) (7)

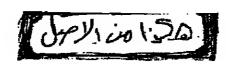
5 Reticent (8)

3 Game — bird (4) 4 Go after — and succeed

7 Information (9) 10 Rugby player (5,4) 12 Near — an entryway (8) 15 Break down — or eulogise (5,2)

16 Fix (6) 18 Greek letter (5) 20 Wealthy (4) 23 Beat - bronze

6 Dismantle (5) To Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0891 338 248. Calls cost 50p per minute Mon-Fri, 6pm, and 45p per minute at all other times. Service supplied by ATS



Cuardian

The National Health Service is on the critical list. So why are taxpayers giving away £120 million to private hospitals?

Mark Lattimer and Simon Garfield on the medicine we can't afford

> Going private at your expense

XPECTS a little opulence at a private hospital, and the London Clinic does not disappoint. Patients enter a comfort zone, a respite from the streaming traffic of the Maryle-bone Road, a relief from their anxieties and ailments. The reception is warm and traditional, but the lift that takes patients to the clinical floor is something else; it contains a virtual reality fish tank in the shape of a waiting room. A nurse says that many clients

Saturday Ociois

REELFAG British film all Oscalsin past 20 year

More than b thirds of fi made in Eng the UK has per cent of b

market, wer £1 billions

The worlds industry ger Le AGUITES 41 £30 billiona

Tax incention the UK inde could crest

The America hotel bedroe

featured in to Weddingsa Funeralisis until the end **Year**

Hollywoods

account la 2 cent of bare takings in the it is 15 year Colin Welley predicted

Invasiond Hallywoods collected! for Charlete The audior industria overtake 20 respects

Americas OVERSEME Стособы helpedias number#: tourists: Australia:

Merchae revenues: Times out office taix about Irm

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momentarily forget their worries as their curiosity takes over".

Once relaxed, a private patient may choose from a highly impressive list of services. There is the new endoscopy unit, opened just two weeks ago at a cost of £2 million, a vital weapon in the early

18,000

There is the "positive pressure" wing, part of a recent £5 million investment in the medical oncology unit, invaluable in treating those with depleted immune systems. And, of course, there is the plastic and reconstructive unit, dealing with facelifts, breast

The private patient, or the patient's medical insurers, pay heavily for these elite services,

which are the of the NHS. About 12,000 people a year pay between £360

the privilege of stay-ing at the London Clinic, with med-ical costs on top. A further 50,000 people pay for day-care each year. Unlike NHS patients, they don't have to

wait long to see a consultant and, with 171 beds and seven state-of-the-art operating theatres, surgery can be con-

In an ideal world, all of us - not just the privileged few — would be able to benefit from the premier certainly all pay for it.

At the end of a week in which

growing fears have been expressed for the ability of the NHS to cope — winter crisis ahead, six-year waiting lists for hip operations—
it may anger some taxpayers to
learn that the London Clinic is a
registered charity And as a charity it is estimated to benefit from
£1.7 million in tax breaks every year, at the expense of those tax-

And the London Clinic is not alone. Over one third of private hospitals use charitable status in order to avoid paying any corpora-tion tax or capital gains tax, and to rates. The number of private hos pitals operating under the guise of charitable status has now reached 84 acute and 11 psychiatric hospi-

The Nuffield Hospitals group has become the largest sector of acute hospitals in Britain outside the NHS, with a bold acquisition programme and a turnover of more than £120 million a year. But its official name is the Nuffield Nursing Homes Trust, registered as a charity to "prevent, relieve and cure sickness and ill health of every kind". The non-charitable BUPA group had to pay £9 million in corporation tax in 1994 for the 29 hospitals it runs; Nuffield paid nothing.

The argument that private schools are manipulating charitable status to gain what amounts to

within | pocket the standard 80 per cent | a state subsidy of £40 million has | by pointing to the bursaries they Labour warned it would require such schools to prove they were providing a service to local com-munities or risk losing the perk.

Yet turn to health, and few people are aware that a similar scam is insidiously being used to undermine the NHS by encouraging the spread of private hospitals. A report to be published next month by a charity umbrella group, the Directory of Social Change, estimates that the treatments of social change, estimates that the treatments of social change. mates that the total value of chari-table benefits for private bealth may exceed £35 million a year. Add to that the value of tax relief on private medical insurance and the sum lost to the taxpayer in subsi-dies comes to over £120 million three times that awarded to public

Some public schools have tried to justify their status as charities backgrounds. Private hospitals are rarely able to demonstrate

such public spiritedness.

Take the London Clinic, Last year's accounts show that it han-dled £27 million in private business. How much did it spend on providing free treatment for those unable to pay? Just £2,000. Even this beneficence fell outside the hospital's ordinary activities, being the product of a special dia-mond jubilee appeal launched by the clinic in 1992 which raised ©100,000.

With the level of fees normally

charged at the clinic, that won't go very far. Over the past four years, 20 people have been given free care, compared to over 200,000 feepaying patients over the same period. The governing document under which the London spage 14

Investment Ideas

HELPING YOU MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

P'VE JUST SPENT SIX HOURS OF MY LIFE filling in my Tax Return. Are there any worthwhile tax-free investments that don't have to be declared? Sheila Walker MAIDSTONE



FJ1GD8

Them on them

The global view

Local government offi-cials in East Lambok have come up with a new policy designed to keep local women faithful: deny them contraception. Women are not allowed to ask for birth control devices while their husbands are working overseas. "It's meant as a precaution so lonely housewives won't be tempted to do negative things while their husband's are away" said a spokesman for the East Lambok regency.

Whatever one's attitude towards Alexander Lebed, positive or negative, the fact of his departure has had the beneficial effect of lowering tension in Moscow. The question is what will now happen in Chechenia and around the whole issue. This is the main danger in the wake of the 🞇 president's decision. Russian daily, Nezavisimaya

Bob Dole fired poison dipped arrows every chance he got — trust, patri-otism, pardons, FBI files, affirmative action, gay marriages, flag desecration, school prayer and drugs at the border — but nothing hit the target. LA Times political columnist, Robert Scheer, on the last tele-vised debate of the US presiden-

tial election campaign.

Us on us

The British view

Earlier this year. Mr great emphasis on a Mort poll he commissioned, which purported to show that Bolton North East electors would support him if he resigned the Tory Party Whip. But we do not elect MPs by opinion polls . . . He should resign as an MP now and allow the voters to decide who they want to represent them. Bolton Evening News

The behaviour of Aston.
Villa keeper Mark Bosnich to Tottenham Hotspur fans on Saturday vas incredibly stupid. Giving a Nazi salute to supporters with strong ties to

the height of bad taste. The gesture was, he said, a bit of a "banter" which got a bit out of hand. The Birmingham Post

!! It was the nail-biting night of Mr Great Britain. Behind the curtain on the makeshift stage of the Slice of Heaven nightclub in a small town near Sheffield stood the nervous contestants. For 22-year-old Revin from Swansea, there were several areas for improvement in his performunce: "I have been told some tips like blowing kisses at the audience and taking plastic roses to throw at them. I think I'll also have to get more of a tan. The guy who won was really tanned."



JHEME OF THE MAEEK ROUES

Roué was the noun coined by Phillippe, Duke of Orleans, in the 18th century to classify his dissolute, rakish, debauched Court companions; they were, the image suggested, "broken on the wheel" of their

Conventional wisdom this week cast Mick Jagger as a roug thinks to his increasrous, thanks to his increasingly tragic attempts to get with a series of young women, including, it is rumoured, Czech model.

Jana Radlich, Jagger's wife, Jeta J.Hall, yishad Princess Diana's divorce lawyer, prompting speculation that

recent fling ees, 21 year old Nicole Kruk, said the most wounding thing possible about a roue—that she ended up pitying him because, "He obviously does what he does for his own self-confidence." The last time a broken-onthe wheel metaphor was used in relation to Jagger

the wearing down of the singer was said by even arch-Conservatives to be society's fault. A Times editorial in July 1967, appearing after Jagger was busted for dope, asked rhetorically "Who breaks a butterfly on a wheel?" As Jagger was 22, it was valid to view him as a harmless, pretty victim of draconian drug laws. Now he's just another silly old sod for whom flings ain't what they used to be; his roug-hood is seen as strictly

self-earned. Yet at what stage in his life should an ageing paunch of mutton cease frolicking like



a lamb? It's a question one imagines the neo-roue Andrew Neil asks with ever greater impency these days. His delightfully unselfconscious memoir, serialised during the week, was completely candid — embarrass-ingly candid, almost — about the Pamella Bordes business and his exhaustingly Tramp-ified life.

It must have made younger men, weighed down with concerns over children, bills and shelves to put up, wonder where Neil gets the energy from Maybe, intruth, they also felt a soupcon of sadness for the old gost and his endearing refusal to grow up.
Another ageing rock star

flirting dangerously with roue status, Phil Collins, was reported as having made the unfortunate obser vation that running away with a 23-year-old was helping to cure his baldness. *Orianne's got me drinking ginseng and eating raw gin-ger root." he said. "Eloping

Jagger and Jadlich Rolling Stone romance?

with a sultry siren may make some things grow, Phil, honey but not hair." commented a London Ryening Standard

columnist tartiy
In this week of the rout,
let us thank, well, God, I guess, for the antithesis of roue, the anti-matter debauchee, Sir (Heath)Cliff Richard. Having done everything required to attract derision—attempting to be a spring chicken at 55, cast-ing himself as mean, moody. stubbly snarling hero of his own stage production of Wuthering Heights — he received instead of the anticipated sneers, a ranturous reception for his

Birmingham stage debut." Sir Cliff's success at avoiding the label of road along with almost everything else in life is telling proof of something, but it is not obvious quite what. than Margolia

making of a life-long commit-

ment to each other. One could

not possibly use the word mar-

which underline the best ways

for human beings to function

riage to mean anything else. There are certain structures

130 H (8) Y . "I'm so sorry. Please take me back." Who was desperate?

NOW SODE

(a) Paul Merson (c) Nick Jagge

2. 4 can't help but blame myself for what's (a) Paul Merson (b) Paul Gascolgne (c) Mick Japper

3. "A permanent split is the last thing I want." Who was hopeful? (a) Paul Merson (b) Paul Gascoigne (c) Mick Jagger

Geoffrey Boycott Edward Fox and the Counters Maya Schoenberg went to the same party. Whose?

5. Who promised to trave econd class to save



gesture proved an own-

r. \$1,000,000 for a ture. Of whom?

8. £2,500 for a

9. "It allows you to acc the sex, violence, incest and munior in all their... proper proportions." fending their new four nour movie? (a) Quentin Tarantino (b) Michael Winner (c) Konnoth Branagh

10, "I'll be back." Who of to return?

11. Which sportsman's sureer went downhill fast?

12. Who is pinning their hopes on late-night erotics, but not until Good Friday at the earliest?

13. "I like to be dirty, I will be dirty." Who? (b) Liam Gallagher (c) Sir Cliff Richard

14. Who fell foul of the (a) Madonna (b) Sinced O'Connor c) Sir Cliff Richard

15, One politician rele a rave record, the other a folk album. Who were

Answers on page 23

Life and death in the ring

This week last year October 13 1995

T WAS an ordinary fight at the Hospitality Inn, Glas-Row, when James Murray fought Drew Docherty for the British bantamweight title. Some paid £80 to watch it over dinner while others, for £30, stood around the edge

drinking. Thirty seconds before the end of the twelfth and final round, Murray, a 35-year-old, eight- stone landscape gardener, was knocked out. The crowd rioted.

Drunken spectators impeded the passage of the paramedics, and bottles were hurled as Murray lay dying. His family was told he was clinically dead the following

Murray's father, Ken, immediately said that boxing was not to blame for his son's death and that Drew Docherty time. However, Murray's death ignited the debate about the dangers of boxing.

On October 26, the report commissioned from an independent panel of neurologists after the 1994 death of Bradley Stone was published. Its impact was greatly increased by Murray's death.



James Murray is counted out in the tragic Glasgow fight

mended measures including the introduction of a compul sory MRI brain scan for all boxers and weighing them 24 hours before a fight, with other random weigh-ins to avoid last-minute dehydration to reach a target weight. They also wanted to see a prominent presence of doctors, able to attract the referee's attention at any time. Most of these measures

vere implemented immedi-

ately, though the MRI scan-

scan (£400,000 of which is being borne by the promoter, Frank Warren) are still being phased in. "No one has been excluded yet," says Dr Adrian Whiteson, Chief Medical Officer of the British Board of Boxing Con-

trol, "because we haven't yet had any abnormal scans.' Several boxers showed increased awareness of the dangers: in November, Steve WBO super-middleweight

title against Ray Close, citing his opponent's problematic brain scan of 1994.

In January, Pat Cowdell, a small-hall promoter, called a meeting of licensed promoters, managers and boxers to narshal opposition to the safety reforms, largely objecting on financial rounds. But his protest failed to attract significant

It was decided that banning alcohol was impracti-cal, not least because many of the rioters at the Murray fight were drunk when they arrived.

A spokeswoman for the British Medical Association, which in 1982 adopted the policy that boxing should be banned says: "We don't think safety measures will make a lot of difference. They're a drop in the ocean: the sport should be banned."

Meanwhile, Murray's fam ily is coming to terms with its loss. "With James Murray" says Dr Whiteson. "there was nothing we could have done, even if he'd been in the neuro-surgical ward of the local hospital. Generally, it is safer than it was a year ago, but it's a dangerous sport. It will never be 100 per Entity Son



the church?

"If Christian les-bians and gay men feel the need to have their parinership recognised and blessed it would be a hard-hearted soul who would refuse them the emotional and religious comfort, satisfaction and support that gives them. This support is being denied by t raditionalwho cannot accept any deviation from the notion that sex belongs exclusively within heterosexual marriage. Such a notion is an intolerant, outdated and short-sighted view of human relations. David Smith, Gay Times

"The definition of marriage is the public commitment made between a man and a woman who bring together their kin and friends to witness their

and if you say 'anything goes' you undermine all those various other things." Mrs Margaret Killingray of the institute for contemporary Christianity John Boswell, Professor of his-tory at Yale University has shown beyond reasonable doubt that the church has involved itself in blessing

same sex couples since the seventh century and proba bly since the fourth. In the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement's 20-year life we have arranged around 4,000 same-sex marriages." Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement. does not recognise

same-sex marriage and canon law does not recognise same sex marriage. Such ceremonies have no canonised authority and fall outside the Church of England's understanding of marriage - which is the life long union of one man and one woman, mutually exclusive and dissoluble only by death."

Rev Jonathan Jennings, Church of England spokesman Interviews by Hannah Pool

Going private at your expense

4 page 13 Clinic was established in 1932 refers to "the provision gratuitously or otherwise, of hos pital and clinic services for per-sons in need thereof". It is hard now not to read the words "gratuitously or otherwise" without lay ering them with irony.

The main factor that sets charltable hospitals apart from other private hospitals is that they do not distribute dividends or profits to shareholders. Senior staff and managers may still receive handsome salaries, but any surplus generated at the end of the year is retained and invested back into the hospital's work — back, that is, into providing services to private patients. Another requirement is that the institution should exist "for the relief of sickness" — a given in the case of any hospital.

The law places one other stipu-

that they should exist for the pub-lic benefit. Organisations which restrict their services to a limited group of people will generally be deemed ineligible. Yet the rule, so clear in theory, is in practice applied with double standards. A provident association like BUPA. which also does not pay dividends to shareholders, is not allowed to register as a charity as It restricts its services to members. Other private hospitals are called charities because they are supposedly open to all — and yet to use their facilities you have to have the money to

Richard Fries, head of the Charity Commission which polices the sector, accepts that there are legitimate questions to be asked about the public benefit all this brings "How broadly available to people do health services need to be to justify charitable status, with all that goes with it including tax

How available services are depends, surely, on the fees dle of the range daily rate charged in a BUPA hospital was £222. The average for non-religious charitable hospitals was higher, at £231. That would place them well out of



and the most modern equipment. But who is paying?

the reach of most people, let alone One way private hospitals manage to charge such high fees is by being able to offer top quality facilities. As charities they are not allowed to dish out profits, so instead they have been ploughing their surpluses back into the busings.

ess. The circle is complete: facili-

ties improve, so fees can go up. In many charitable hospitals, expan-sion and higher prices have

advanced hand in hand. The Nuffield Hospitals group makes little attempt to conceal its lust for making surpluses — profit in all but name. Reading a stack of recent annual reports one is struck not by the group's desire to deliver care to the greatest num-ber at the best possible price, or even just to meet demand, but by its attempt to maximise expansion through increasing return. After giving details of its

gramme, the 1994 accounts report on an elderly person's unit that appeared to be operating below par: "The Care of the Elderly Cen-tre in Redhill continued to operate in a difficult market. Demand for the services of the care centre and hence turnover grew somewhat during the year. However, it was not possible to improve margins at all. A fundamental review of the future of this facility is being undertaken."

Another statement of intent says: "We had hoped to achieve a surplus of £5 million plus, but the loss of income from those hospitals which were being refurbished, combined with the higher than expected pay award to nurses, effectively reduced our profits."

The Nuffield Hospitals are

undertaken."

undoubtedly a financial success story. But in many private charita-ble hospitals, the need to reinvest surpluses by building new facilities is inefficient if not openly wasteful. Bed occupancy rates in the sector are now as low as 49 per

The contrast with the NHS could not be starker. Beds in pri-£24 million capital investment pro- vate hospitals increased by 73 per

cent between 1980 and 1994, while NHS beds fell by more than a third. The British Medical Association warned earlier this week that the NHS was heading for

ALCOLM Miller. chief executive of the London Clinic, claims that unlike many hospitals in the private sector which face great trouble in filling their beds, his hospital is often fully occupied. particularly during the week. He is proud of his record in ensuring that the clinic continues to main-tain a steady surplus in the ceaseless pursuit of improved facilities for patient care. The clinic's marketing manager adds that the future lies in specialisation which is why, for example, the clinic does not provide care for chronically-ill

older people.

In self-defence, charitable hospitals also point out that the boundaries between private and NHS care are becoming increasingly blurred under the so-called internal market where health authorities and GP fundholders can buy

healthcare from the private sector. But they still have to contend with the argument that they are being unfairly supported with public

The threat of any change to the rules is as yet minimal, however. Even a Labour government would be unlikely to grapple with the issue. Chris Smith, the shadow health secretary, merely points out, rather blandly, that "with new figures showing that NHS deficits are likely to be around £120 million by next April and complaints everywhere of cancelled opera-tions and longer waiting lists, the

tions and longer waiting lists, the Government's top priority should be patient care in the NHS, rather than in any other sector."

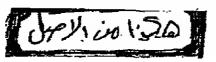
Private hospitals in Britain are subsidised in at least four different ways: their medical staff are largely trained by the NHS; their natients rely on the NHS to me patients rely on the NHS to provide back-up emergency and intensive care facilities: the charitable hospitals are largely exemp from paying business rates; and the same hospitals pay no tax at all on the large annual surpluses they we do, they will inevitably drive a wedge between the two tiers of the healthcare system, just as they have done between public and pri-

vate schools. Back at the London Clinic a tour of the quiet corridors reveals yet more wonders of modern medicine. "Over there," a hospital manager says, "is where they're doing a spinal fusion — very exciting stuff." On another floor is where you will find "absolutely the most ferrous grand diskney." the most famous guy on diabetes."
And further along there is the voice clinic, in which broadcasters, museum guides and pop stars may benefit from the UK's first computer integrated white leave computer-integrated rhino-laryngeal stroboscope. Concerts may

never have to be cancelled again. The tour will continue around all such private hospitals, into the next century. Every year new departments will be opened and new treatments ploneered. The wonders will never cease. It really does look like great charity Partic-ularly to those who can afford it. ogging up learteries c

Wenment.

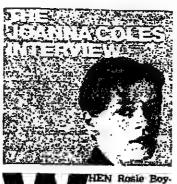
The Gift of Health, by Mark Lettimer, is make. We can happily ignore such hidden subsidies if we like. But if of Social Change, tel. 0171-209 5151 published next month by the Directory





Now sober but still jolly, Rosie Boycott is a survivor who this week becomes the first woman to edit a national broadsheet

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Proteirs, Crates

deputy editor of zine, a friend called her, announced he was launching a new magazine in Cyprus and that he wanted her to be editor. "I arrived drunk in Cyprus on the Saturday and when they flew me back the following Saturday I was still drunk," she says grimly.
"I came to in the Rad Cross

room at Heathrow where a very nice nurse leaned over and told me I was in big trouble." So, after strenuous persuading from her father and boyfriend, she finally checked into a treatment centre and spent the next six weeks dry-ing out. "There were nine of us, fellow patients in the same ward. I'm the only one still alive."

Now aged 45. Rosie Boycott is a survivor. You can see it in her face, you can hear it in her voice. It's an ideal quality with which to edit the Independent on Sunday, which some reckon may not survive much beyond the next election. She's the first woman to edit a broadsheet newspaper this cen-tury — an astonishing achieve-ment — but she's not yet produced an issue and already the critics have started. She lacks experience, they grumble; she's only got the job for the female shock factor. In fact, Boycott has worked on both the Daily Mail and Telegraph. And during her four-year sojourn as editor on Esquire, the men's maga-zine she left last Tuesday, she managed to more than double

circulation. "Nasty things happened when I was a drunk," she recalls quietly. "I can remember sitting up with my mum when she was ill and dying and I was so drunk I passed out. When I came to she was awake and watching me. And I remember thinking she could have died when I was like that and even that didn't stop me. It's a really scary iliness."

Rosie Boycott can be pretty scary herself at times. It's partly her voice, as deep as Loch Ness, but there is also a toughness about her, a reluctance to suffer fools which surfaces sometimes on Start The Week, where she is by far the best and most demanding of Melvyn Bragg's regular guests.
The first time we met, four years

ago, she was hosting a party for a mutual friend, and I found her intimidating and rather abrupt. Looking back, I was probably in awe of her reputation and guest list. But ladling out slices of beef and ham pie in the kitchen of her tall white Notting Hill house, she seemed verging on the edge of one of those humourless super-women, managing to edit a magazine while single-handedly bringing up a daughter and hosting parties for the literati, all in the best possible

But as I came gradually to know her over the next few years, I realised I was wrong. As her copious friends and colleagues will testify, Boycott is warm, funny, good com-pany, immensely capable and has the intoxicating quality of managing to get as merry as her guests, while drinking no alcohol at all

stopped being drunk," she says, as we sit in her sunny dining room and she obligingly drags up her past for me to pore over. "You have a lot of scrapes when you drink and you feel lucky to have escaped." As she admits with a startling frankness, Boycott spent the first part of her life escaping. Escaping from her middle-class army background and the memories of Cheltenham Ladies College where she was bullled and "came back from class one day to dis-cover the entire contents of my wardrobe hung on the fire-escape. Everyone was laughing and pointing because my clothes were all homemade," she shudders, stroking her dog, Bingo, a refugee from Battersea Dogs Home.

Than it was escaping Kent University, where she spent just two terms reading maths before running off to go on marches and work on the underground press in London. Here she founded the feminist magazine Spare Rib, with Marsha Rowe, but "instinctively I didn't like collective editing". So two years later she was off again, this time to India and the Far East with John Steinbeck (son of the writer) where the couple were eventually thrown into a Thai jail for smoking dope. "It was extremely frightening

because you didn't know what was going to happen," she says briskly. "But I gave English lessons each morning and I was deeply into meditating at the time so it was also quite a spiritual experience." After their release, they ended up at Naropa, the Buddhist University of America, where Boycott promptly started editing the local newspaper. "I had an *insure* list of contributors from William Burroughs to Allen Ginsberg and Gregory Corso. The guru was a very complex individual, who was partially paralysed and incredibly drunk most of the time," she adds wryly. "It was an interesting time but not a very happy one."

with Steinbeck, she came back to England but promptly charged off again to edit a women's mag-azine in Kuwait. "I didn't want to be in England, I wanted to be away. I didn't like the mid-seven-ties, it wasn't interesting. I was running away again. I can see it with hindsight, I was always go-ing through endless struggles to re-invent myself into someone I could live with.

"At Cheltenham I used to tell lies about where we'd been on holiday to make myself sound more interesting, and part of what I did in my twenties was to live a life so I never needed to tell a lie again. "The sixties did two things. It made you think big and take risks,

but it also made you despise the normal, and that is a great crime that no one's prepared to

As a result, she says, it took her a long time to enjoy ordinary things. "I got an incredible amount of satisfaction when I bought this house," she grins, looking around her at the red walls and old upright piano; next door, the kitchen is crammed with red and yellow cups and mugs, the dresser heav-ing with wooden carvings, little toys and postcards. "It's a nice house, but I felt: 'Gosh, I did something other people do and I like it for all the right reasons'. It took me a long time before I realised that I like to go walking and skiing and riding, and reading books and hanging out with my family. I despised all that for a long time." After sobering up, Boycott mar-ried a journalist, David Leitch

(author of God Stand Up For Ras tards) and produced Daisy, who now aged 13 can thrash her mother on the tennis court. Though her drunken days seem far behind her I wonder if she still fears drink? "You're always conscious of it. It doesn't frighten me because I know what to do. The really frightening time is when you're in de-nial about it. We all have friends like that." When she sees them sinking, does she interfere? "I try very hard to say something. If you can try and stop it you should, it's a very lonely, horrific thing and it happens to a lot more people than we ever acknowledge." As part of her rehabilitation, she

also wrote an autobiography, A Nice Girl Like Me (reissued by Pan next year). "I still get letters from people who have got it from the library and said it helped them and I think 'Great'." She also produced a novel. Would she like to have carried on writing? "No," she says emphatically. "I don't see my-self as a writer, I don't pine to stay at home and write. I'm in awe of writers, they're the only thing I'm

Which may go some way to explaining her notoriously fat contacts book. At Esquire, where she picked up the Editor of the Year Award two years running, in 1983 and 1984, she quickly set up the Esquire/Waterstone's Literary Award, which rapidly established itself as the most prestigious prize around for non-fiction. She also persuaded more established authors such as Erica Jong, Mar-tha Gelhorn, Kingsley and Martin Amis, Tobias Woolf, Rian Malan and Ian McKwan to contribute.

She's on the board of the Hay-on Wye literary festival and its direc-tor, Peter Florence, remarks that Without doubt the thing which most excites Rosie is really good writing." So what, I wonder, does she most enjoy about editing? "Finding the right writer for the right story." she says before chanters, writers, writers,

At this point there is a noise at the front door and Bingo races off to greet Daisy, back from school. "Hi, my darling," calls Rosle and, as Daisy appears in her gym kit,
"Oh, you've left your jumper behind again!" "I don't want my
jumper," laughs Daisy.
"Do you want us to go unstairs
out of your way?" "No it's Ok."
Daisy replies, rubbing Bingo and
absenting heading for the fridge

absently heading for the fridge. How, I demand, will Boycott, as

a single parent, cope working until late on a Saturday night? "We have a very effective network here," she says, nodding in the di-rection of Anna, the live-in nanny.

"Daisy's dad is going to move in every Friday night and I'll have Sunday and Monday off. Besides, I have this huge, extended family. We have my ex-husband, who's like my best friend, his girlfriend. my stepdaughter from one of his liaisons, her boyfriend, my step-son, my daughter, my husband's first wife and her husband, my stepdaughter's mother and her father, nieces, nephews and two cousins who are like brothers and sisters." Grief, it sounds like a Woody Allen film.

"Oh we're on the phone the whole time, in and out, we have a network between us, we have dinners together where we have David, his first wife, current husband, mother of other child and her husband, the children, their boyfriends, it's lovely, just terrific! I'm a single mother, OK, I'm a very privileged single mother," she says, suddenly changing tone, "But I have to say, I didn't respond very well to the Blair family photograph."

But she is a Labour supporter?
"Of course! I was going to do a



sixties made you think big and take risks'

volved and I'm longing to see them in government. But I don't swallow what they're going to do hook, line and sinker, and I'm getting asperated by the fence-sitting.
"I think they should bite the bullet about taxing the rich more. I

don't think people would object if they saw a result, I send my daughter to a fee-paying school, I would dearly love for the taxes that I pay not to have to send her to a fee-paying school but there's no way I'm sacrificing Daisy to the shit-heap of Tory education." I wonder if she'll maintain the

no one's going to say the royal family right now are a good thing. but I'm not keen on republianism, I can't see its value and, I find it upbelievably boring." As she gets up to slip out for a

meeting, I remember that Boycott doesn't walk, she bounces. She doesn't sit still either, she lists like a ship. Her energy seems to hover around her like a Ready Brek haze. Early in the morning, she can often be spotted peddling away at the local gym, and on Sunday mornings she can be seen in Ken-

ered productive members of soci-

ety and thereby entitled to be heard. But during this time — dur

Notting Hill softball team, made up of writers and journalists. "Energy's interesting isn't it?" she ergy's interesting isn't it' she remarks. "It goes round, you get it back from people, mine's like an electric motor." I wonder, if she ever gets depressed? "Yes." How does she cope? "I battle through. I have a lot of very good pals. I have scriously good pals."

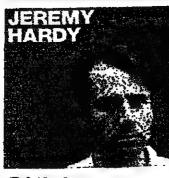
As I leave, I spin round and confide that the first time we met I

tide that the first time we met, I found her terrifying, so forbidding. "Oh no," she grins. "I'm scared all the time myself I fight lots of fears. I get fantastically scared!"

squirrel, an unfortunate role mod-

el for anyone who hopes not to

spend their autumn years going



Old timers clogging up the arteries of government

ILLINGDON Hospital's rejection of elderly patients has highlighted what is seen by many as the most threatening ailment in our society. It seems that the trouble with us today is that we're all living too long. It's no fault of the Government. It's our

Whereas we used to die, broken, diseased and exhausted, at around 40, now we think we can just go on and on. And we're not prepared to hobble around in pain muttering "musin't grumble", we're all demanding pain-killers, plastic joints, even heart surgery.

The whole point of being old is that you're on the way out, you're not a long term-investment. And yet, unproductive people, who by their very nature are outdated. place increasing demands on the

Apparently, human beings have a limitless desire to go into hospi-tal. Given a moment's leisure, we're all haranguing our GP, insisting that we need some operation or other. And fair play to the Government; more of us are being hospitalised than ever before. The Tories have helped to provide more of us with mainutrition, tuberculosis, stress, depression

and industrial injury. But even this revival of sickness is not wiping us out in the way that might be expected. More and more of us are surviving retirement. And rather than celebrating greater life expectancy, we're worrying about it. Whenever pen-sions are discussed, we are told that our insistence on not expiring in an orderly fashion means that we must accept the gradual dis-mantling of the welfare state. Dark predictions are made about our nation's grey future. I am surprised that no scientist has yet started to make dire forecasts about the geographical implications of our ageing population. Surely, as more and more people are retired to the seaside, the edges of Britain will bend downwards, forcing the Midlands thousands of

feet above sea-level. The one consolation is that Wolverhampton will be made less One would have thought that at-

titudes to age would have pro-gressed faster than they have, given that we can all look forward to being older for longer. The reemercence of Barbara Castle as a pensioners' champion was quite telling. Regardless of what she is saying, she is marvellous for her

We seem to revere the fact that people over 70 are able to do anything at all. When Lady Castle mounted that podium few of us were really listening to her proposals or comparing them to Frank Field's. Some of us were pleased to see a person of any age acting as a spanner in the works of the Blair machine, but what united the nation was a sense of wonder that a person can look so old and have such vitality. The same is true of Mick Jagger although he's only 53. But because she looked so frail,

the party establishment felt quite comfortable with Lady Castle's attack. The opinions of the old are benignly disregarded in the same way as those of the young. We start out exuberant and finish up cranky, and in neither case are we

Even this revival of sickness is not wiping us out in the way that might be expected. More of us are surviving retirement

considered rational. Experience will knock the stuffing out of the young, and death will silence the old. But everyone admires their splrit.

In between youth and old age we may be lucky enough to be consid-

ing our working lives — we're sup posed to dedicate ourselves to naking our children as employable as possible and preparing ourselves to die with dignity, that ls, with a private pension.
The financial institutions put

enormous resources into adver-tisements depicting nicely-dressed, spritely, self-supporting oldies with good dentures, cherishing fine collections of those ornaments you can order from Sunday supplements and maybe even enjoying the cruise of a lifetime — one last fling before a well provided for funeral. But for the feckless who live on their incomes as they earn them, there will be no cruise, no stair-lift, no toffees for devoted grandchildren. Probably no devoted grandchildren at all, just grandchildren resentful that Gran's come to live with them. In pension advertising, the pru-

dent saver is equated with the

through bins and hopping naked through the park. But all this crass imagery successfully gnaws away at one's confidence in the future, especially when combined with political initiatives to move further from state provision.
As for Hillingdon, I don't suppose anyone intended any offence to those over 76, but such a deci-

sion cannot fail to humiliate. This is not to say that one should cast the old in the role of victim. The image of frightened, lonely, confused old folk who are constantly being mugged probably gets rather irritating for the overseventies.

All a pensioner wants is the same rights as everybody else. And only when we equate human rights with human needs shall we start to become anything like a civilised society. So, yes, we do place difficult demands on the state, and so we should. It is ours.



Why lawyers are making a watertight case for privatisation

something odd about a woman wanting to have a baby by equivalent of the memorial park bench — but I don't think any reasonable person would deny her

Except the law. What's really upsetting is that Mrs Blood has had to find £50,000 of her own money to obtain this injustice. Fifty grand! There are parts of this country where you can still buy a perfectly good house for that. You could even ask 50 Commons questions. We also learned this week that the case of a policeman, acquitted

the case of a policeman, acquirted of taking a calculator worth £1.50, had cost the public £100,000.

The money, of course, is going to lawyers. We are always scoffing at the Americans for their love of highly-priced litigation (a Washington lawyer friend once explained to me why he couldn't use a popular car wash: "The lines are 40 minutes long, and I bill \$300 an hour.") Yet we are heading that way ourselves, and fast. Some QCs here charge fees which would bring a blush to the pearly cheeks of a top New York corporate lawyer. Was there ever such a prime candidate for privatisation and cut-throat competition? The Gov-

ERSONALLY I think there's | ernment is forever telling us how gas and phone calls are now much cheaper. Given that justice is every bit as important, yet seems only faintly less random than the Lottery, shouldn't it have its prices slashed too?

> NOW that "well" is established be fore adjectives ("well ill") it's being dropped from its previous billet in front of participles ("well pleased"). My brother, who teaches in south-east London, tells me that "well-built" and "wellme that wen-bunk and wen-hung" are being replaced by the single word, as of a well-propor-tioned young man: "he's built". Meanwhile, "wicked" (for "good") has vanished, replaced by the new term of high praise, "rough", in-variably accompanied by a jerky wave of the right hand at shoulder

Spin doctors have long used the phrase "on message" to refer to a politician who willingly spouts the latest party slogans ("Madam Speaker, this is surely another case of "New Labour, New Danger' "). Now I gather they are say-ing "he's on message", privately, about journalists who can be trusted to faithfully reflect whatever line they are peddling. BRITISH "loyalty schemes"

breathtakingly tight-fisted. My ! warming frenzy which continues Visa bill came this week with a ; to grip at least some scientists? Of "Choice Points" catalogue. For 400 ; course not. Global warming has points, I can get a "ChocoGram Su-perdeluxe" consisting of 32 choco-lates. This means I'd have to spend £125 on the credit card to earn

I can't think of one similarity between **Paul Gascoigne and** TS Eliot. Yet both pose us a moral dilemma

each mouthful. But our greengrocer gives the kids a free sweet if we go in for a pound of potatoes and he doesn't

slather us with ad man's guff about choice festive Christmas

ACCORDING to the Meteorological Office, the earth has actually cooled in the past year, owing to something called the North Atlantic Oscillation. Will this dampen

become an article of faith, aimes, a cult, and true believers will be lieve in it even if we enter a new lice Age. They are like the funda-mentalists who interpret earth-quakes and famines as signs of God's goodness and mercy.

THERE are some things we should do even while recognising that they will have little or no good effect. Banning handgurs is one. I doubt if it will save a single life, just as getting more women into Parliament will not improve legis-lation by one semi-colon. We ought to do these things simply because they are right.
In the same way, "one member,

one vote" was the right thing for the Labour Party. Yet it has hardly worked as intended. In the safe seat of Eccles last week, 50 people turned up to the selection meeting. Having heard the candidates, they voted Bryan Davies MP top, and a Mr Ian Stewart third. Yet Mr Stewart won the nomination, because of the 180 postal votes mainly gain-ered by his friends in the T&G union. These were from people who were not ill, nor away, nor unable to get to the meeting. This

goesn't mean that OMOV is wrong. It just proves what us cyn-ics have always known, that even the purest democracy is endemi-

TRY as I might, I can't think of one-similarity between Paul Gascoigne and TS Eliot. Yet both pose us a morai dilemma. Does Gazza's wonderful goal in Euro 96 excuse the appalling way he has beaten up his wife. Of course not. Any more than The Waste Land, the greatest poem of the century, neutralises. Elici's saloon bar anti-Semitism. So, do we now ignore the goal and tear up the poem? Or mentally separate the man from his gifts, as if he were merely a flawed carrier of an exquisite talent? I really do not know the answer.

DAVID Mellor is the most articulate Tory advocate of a total ban on nandguns. Yet he earns a six-figure sum every year as a director of arms companies whose products rain death upon whole populations.

it seems a curious position. To misquote Woody Allen ("in our family, the greatest sin was to buy retail"). Mr Mellor apparently believes that the greatest sin is to die retail.

Born to rule over us



As Parliament reopens next week, what is to be done with all those crusty old hereditary peers? Send 'em packing, says Labour's Baroness Blackstone. You'll regret it if you do, ripostes the seventh Earl of Onslow

Dear Tessa,

DEFEND in the Guardian the heredi-tary peerage, is akin to leaving Leonidas at Thermopylas with no Spartans and you, dear Tessa, make a fine Darius. The abolition, "Is nothing to do with democracy, all to do with

My peerage is no less democratic because it was recom-mended by Pitt, than yours, pro-posed by Kinnock. There is

The modern political class is very narrow, noticeable in those have been created life peers since I have been in the House of Lords. The hereditary peerage, by contrast, is haphazard: take Lord Cranbourne, clever and with a political nose finely tuned down the generations — the British Constitution is a job creation scheme for the Cecil family; or Lord Monkswell of the hard left, who knows the inside of Manchester prison; or experts on conservation

such as Lords Melchett and Cranbrooke; or 26-year-old Lord Frey-burg; or Lady Mar, an ex-civil service clerk of ancient Scottish lineage who badgers the Government on organo-phosphates. Nei-ther she nor Freyburg are profes-sional politicians, but they enrich public life.

All life peers feel beholden to the party that ennobled them. By contrast, my debt to Pitt has long been paid. Though I take the Con-servative Whip, I voted for a refer-endum on Maastricht and Lord Chelwood's referendum on poll

If we are to change the Lords, and I would like to, let us do it after consultation and not by creating an ermine-clad quango of political appointees. That would give the Prime Minister powers of patronage undreamed of by

If there were public demand for change or a proper proposal for reform all well and good, but we work. Don't meddle.

Yours sincerely. Michael, Earl of Onslow

Mozart was

confined alone

in a stable for

He was visited

occasionally to

be brought food

His bed was a

2½ years.

and water.

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PLEASE HELP A LITTLE

DONKEY IN DISTRESS

When we rescued him he was petrified. He

would quiver at the back of his new stable

when approached. When the door was

Gradually, with patience and kindness,

Please send donations to: The Donkey Sanctuary,

Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss

Devon, EX10 ONU. Tel: (01395) 578222

). Sidmouth.

Enquiries to Dr E. D. Svandsen, M.B.E.

I enclose Cheque/Postal Order for E

Mozart is beginning to trust again. He is 25 years old and can now spend his retirement

years in contentment. Please can you help

us to care for Mozart and donkeys like him.

Please Help Us To Help Them

opened it took many days before Mozart would venture out and he was just as frightened of donkeys as he was of people.



Dear Michael.

YOUR case for leaving the House of Lords as it is rests on the fact that it works and to meddle with it would therefore be foolish. Unfortunately it does not work very well and could work better if reformed.

Both the current size of the House and the composition of its membership damages the way it works. With 1,195 potential members it is far too large. Even if those who have not taken the Oath are omitted, there are approximately 1,000 members.

The fact that some of them hardly ever turn up is not a justification for keeping an Upper House of this size. There are 24 law lords, 26 bishops, and 373 life peers. The rest are hereditary peers. They outnumber the life peers by nearly

Only 16 of the hereditary peers are women, creating a gender im-balance in the House which ought to concern you since I think you quite like women and that you respect the contribution they can ance: there is a small number of young hereditary peers but because they cannot take their seats until their fathers die, most are in

build-up of his late middle age or older.
Only 14 hereditary peers take the Labour Whip compared with 323 who are Conservatives. An imbalance of such magnitude pregrown long and cludes the House from working well. It means that whenever the twisted, he had Government looks as it if might lice and was in lose the argument, it has been able pain through to vote down amendments by summoning the Tory aristocracy to Westminster.

Those who have won the argument lose the vote because the hereditary backwoodsmen have

been whipped in. This brings the House into disrepute as a revising chamber where a more even balance between the parties is needed in order to act as a proper check on the Government.

Your sincerely. Tessa, Baroness Blackstone

Dear Tessa.

YOUR argument against the hereditary peerage is solely the imbalance between those who take the Labour Whip and those who take the Conservative Whip. What l don't think you realise is that a Conservative government is much more embarrassed by defeat in the House of Lords than is a Labour government — I know: I have seen both happen. The Government was embarrassed on the Asylum Bill, on vouchers for education and seven other defeats it has

suffered this session. That neither government, be it Conservative or Labour, pays enough attention to the House of Lords should concern us much You don't answer: would a Labour government have felt if it had been on the receiving end of a defeat on the Maastricht Treaty or the Poll Tax?" Those were the only summoning of backwoodsmen that I recall.

The composition is illogical but you failed to answer why an appointed second chamber would be any better than the present one. That from you, who so disap-proves of quangos.

If a two-stage reform is carried out, the first stage will be done and the second forgotten because "there won't be room in the parliamentary timetable"; "there are more urgent things to do"; "we haven't got agreement . . ."

I agree with you, it must be reformed, but properly reformed. l want its composition thought out and its powers re-defined. Until then, the hereditary peerage has a valuable and original contribution to make.

Yours sincerely.

Dear Michael,

YOU SAY that Conservative governments are more embarrassed defeats in the Lords than Labour governments, I have no idea how to measure embarrassment and, even if I could. I do not think it is relevant.

Since 1979 government defeats in the Lords have averaged 12 per session: between 1974-79 they averaged 70 per session. Without the hereditary peers, the figures would have looked very different in the post-1979 period.

Perhaps you are right that the real backwoodsmen are brought in relatively infrequently. They don't need to be, because the Tory whips can rely on plenty of semibackwoodsmen amongst heredi-tary peers who hang around the House but rarely take part in its proceedings other than to vote.

It is unacceptable to continue with members who are there purely on the basis of birth with no reference to merit. Why should

have an automatic right to sit in parliament? The fact that some of them turn out to be talented politicians does not justify the system; they can take more legitimate routes into politics.

the descendants of eminent (and

in some cases not so eminent) men

You suggest that an Upper House consisting of life peers would be just another quango. The Lords already is a quango: every member is there as a result of preferment across several gen-erations. It is surely better to appoint people on the basis of what they have achieved than because they are descended from the shape of Norman barons.

Yours sincerely. Dear Tessa,

CONSERVATIVE governments do take defeats in the Lords more

seriously than did a Labour government, I know. I heard Margaret Thatcher's reaction. You do not want to abolish us for any other reason than power. You accept heredity as essential in

one part of a triune parliament but say it is wrong in another even though it has been there since parliament began. Tradition which complained that someone in should not be lightly cast aside.

As a hereditary peer I was brought up to believe I was part of

tradition and that I was very privi-leged, so in return I owed society a duty. That may sound old-fash-ioned but it is the attitude of most of the hereditary peerage.

Good traditions should continue. It would, after all, be a betrayal if the Guardian became

the Daily Telegraph. If you were to reform the Lords in line with its traditional make-up I would have sympathy — reform that went back to the origins of parliament in so far as the Queen's govern-ment needed the advice and con-sent of the powerful, out in the What is wrong with the present

body politick is the assumption of all-executive power by the Prima Minister, little checked by the House of Commons whose members are not allowed to think by the whips, even less by the Lords whose members think but are not listened to. A reformed Lords would return balance to our government.

Your jejune proposal of an er-mine-clad quango goes no way towards that desirable and. If anything, it makes the executive power stronger.

Yours sincerely,

Dear Michael,

YOU SAY that I only want to abolish hereditary peers to obtain power. Yet I am surprised that someone as fair-minded as you finds the huge inbuilt Conservative majority in the Lords acceptable. Traditions are important but so is change to meet new circumstances. Because hereditary peers have sat in the Lords for centuries does not mean they should do so forever.

I accept that you have a sense of duty. However, no cricket team, orchestra or school governing body would recruit people just because their fathers had been members: nor should the Upper House.

You imply that you want to keep hereditary peers and give the Lords more power as a check on the executive. Do you think this would be acceptable to the electorate or to the House of Commons?

Reform should include new ways of appointing members, in which nominations could be made by a wide range of public bodies, possi bly with a small committee of privy councillors playing a part. The Conservative Leader in the Lords might perhaps nominate a small number of existing hereditary peers?

As for ermine, once the hereditary peers have gone, it can easily be discarded. Over-ambitious reforms failed in the past. Next time it will be better to proceed in stages towards the goal of a largely elected chamber.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Yours sincerely,

LETTER from Wessex com

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week to Nostalgie de la Boné was incomprehensible. I find this extraordinary. Have people si-ready forgotten this rawboned, elfin chanteuse who took Paris by storm in the heyday of Mistin-guett? Whose offaires, rendresses talk of the Deux Magots and the Cafe Flore, involving as they were reputed to do such diverse pair amours as Jean-Paul Sartre, Si mone de Beauvoir, Jean Gabin, Jean Sablon, Arletty, Henry Miller, Anals Nin, Edith Piat, the Marquis of Vauvenargues, and the Austrian Archduke Ferdinand (before his deplorable assassination)? Can it be that we've ceased to celebrate the belle of Montmar-tre and Montparnasse, Deniert-Rochereau, and all stations to Mairie d'Ivry? Does nobody now invoke the lambent lines of Apollinaire. who wrote of Nostalgie.

A pedant interjects. What the deuce is all this about? Nostalgie de is boue means, literally, nostalgates to the mud, and was used—though more by the English than by the French themselves!—to describe the condition of those who like to have wittfully back to days of hark wistfully back to days of struggle and poverty. Andrew Neil, for instance. Smallweed wearily ripostes: Very

HICH brings me back to Ann Widdecombe. Who can have heard without a surge of emotion the interview on Today in which she spoke of her hopes for those imprisoned in boo camps? The minister had been hustled in to the studios because of a story in the rightwing press. one of these camps was seen smil-ing. Weren't these places supposed to be offering short sharp shocks? Indeed, said the minister. For the first few days the feet of incumbents scarcely touched the ground as the institutions schooled them in the structure and discipline they had been missing. But then, as they accustomed themselves, their eyes were directed to wider horizons. They were trained in the skills the lack of which had landed them in their present horrid pre-dicament. Above all, they were schooled in Right Attitudes. What a wicked waste, supporters must feel, that a candidate with this en-lightened twin-track approach was denied the managership of Manchester City.

well; have it your own way.

MIME TO GRASP the nettle!. the Times thundered this week in some context or other. Why on earth in this day and age (© Museum of British Cli-ché 1996) do people use language like that? Have you ever heard the clare to a neighbour: "Tommy, old fruit, it's time we got round to some nettle-grasping"? In any case, would anyone with a smidgin of sense ever *grosp* a nettle? Take a pair of scissors to it, perhaps, or a scythe or a machete; but not *grasp* it. Are people who at odious risk to themselves persist in grasping nettles in any position to offer worthwhile advice to Her Majesty's ministers?

HE FOUR SCREENS of Smallweed's nearest Odeon are offering attractions called "Jack", "Jude" and "Emma". Emma's the Jane Austen novel about a girl with a grace-ful neck. Jude is Jude the Obscure, a title apparently deemed too obscure for cinemagoers. Jack is something with Robin Williams which many reviewers disliked. Coming shortly to your cornchomping multiplex: "Edna"; "Vernon"; and "Trev". I suppose these short sharp titles represent a revulsion against such rambling names as The Englishman Who Climbed Up a Hill, Simpered Winningly At A Gaggle of Villagers, and Came Down a Mountain, starring Hugh Grant. Even so, I dis-trust them. Had these practices apolied in the past, Gone with the Wind would have been known as "Scarlett"; Dr Strangelove: Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb, as "Doc!"; and Great Expectations as "Pip!"

HANK GOODNESS then, for The Wind in the Willows, also playing next week, which might easily in the present climate have come on the market as "Toad!" Even more gratifying to find the manager offering two free tickets through our local free sheet. All you have to do to qualify is to answer three questions, the first of which asks who wrote the book: (a) Kenneth Grahame; (b)
Graham Greene; or (c) Kenneth
Williams? Most people will tick
Kenneth Grahame, but is it really so simple? The more you think of the story of Rat. Mole and Bedger, the more it seems to belong in the heart of Greeneland. The devious journey which Mole undertakes in he hope of finding his home; what is this but a moving allegory for that classic Greene condition, the hunger for a lost faith? Note also the sexual undertones in a book from which its supposed author claimed to be "clean of the clash of

The concern with the celibate life, perhaps even the mild hint of homo-eroticism, are pure Graham Greene. So is the fascination with the underclass. Why does decent, civilised Badger insist on making his home in the heart of the seething and dangerous Wild Wood, unless it is because he's infected with the characteristic taste of Greene's heroes for the world of the louche and disreputable? Next week -- Toad as Washerwoman: the Apotheosis of Camp?

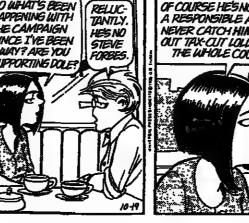












Pitch battle ends with woman carried off on a stretcher

Gazza beats up Shezza and the sports world turns a blind eye. Julie Burchill on men who treat women like footballs

Washington, a centre con-cerned with, if you will, the monitoring of evil in all shapes and forms across the planet, recently came to the conclusion that, above all, one group of people were sinned against more than any other in the world. And they weren't the poor, they weren't black, they weren't children.

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They were, of course, women. In every country, under every system. This is why I find that the best anwer to the question "Are you a feminist?" is invari-

HE Worldwatch Bureau of | ably, "Yes, I do watch the six o' clock television news each day!" But somehow — probably because men cannot face up to the unique scumminess that in-volves physically hurting someone weaker than you are, and therefore must think up all sorts of imagined collusions and complexities and religious tenets to make sense of such acts — violence against women has became a "Yes, but ..." issue. Look at the case of the Taliban in Afghanistan; as the only British journalist to consistently how the attention



Soviet civilization of this wretched country, I for one have no qualms in doing so. The Taliban, since their arrival, have oppressed, abused and attacked women. "Yes, but . . ." — they've "brought stability", "made the tanks run on time" and so on. As if that mattered when more than half the population are being enslaved! In some quarters, the fact that men were being forced to grow beards seemed to be considered more of an abuse of human wights than the party of t

were being whipped with car aerials by Taliban soldiers. In sport — which has for a ong time been the refuge of the man who is basically a homo-sexual at heart but neither "Yes, but..." syndrome has in-evitably come to a head. Men-tion racism to a sports fan and he will throw a fit. He'll become an unreconstructed, full-on, Po-No platform for racists on the pitches or the terraces! Such a

Married to the enemy . . . Paul Gascolgne and his wife, the long-suffering Sheryl

childish and psychotic attack on a fan was justified by the man's "racism" le, pointing out that Cantona was French. I wouldn't like to be French because they are such a deeply racist people, but being correctly identified as a Frenchman can hardly be called an insult.

If Eric Cantona had kicked a black Englishman who called him a Frenchman, he would have been run out of town — or the EuroStar, probably. And if Paul Gascoigne had said — just said, "Sometimes I feel like attacking a black man, in the pro-cess of which I would inflict on him severe bruising to the face, neck and arms, three dislocated fingers and his arm in a sling", it is a fair bet to say he would never be allowed to play profes-

sional football again. Yet when he actually *does* this, to his own wife, in a drunken fit of evil temper, while her two children and his own eight-month-old son cowers in the next hotel room, his club vice-QC, can say: "Let he who has

never had a bust-up with his wife cast the first stone. We are not going to interfere. This is entirely a private matter."

Why is a racist attack condemned as a shameful disgrace equal physical match of his attacker — while an attack on a much weaker woman is considered to be a "Yes, but . . . "? Why do sportsmen, especially — OJ Simpson, Mike Tyson, Gas-

coigne -- consider violence against women so acceptable? And why are their fans so eager to forgive and justify it?

T IS a fact that many women will confirm that men who are over-interested in sport boxing and football especially — are crap at sex; this may be a cause, effect or your good old chicken and egg situation — I do not know. This being a free society, they

know that the women they sleep with have slept with other men
— among them, men who are
dead good in bed. (In London, in the early nineties, at the height of New Laddism and football craziness, it was well known among the single girls on the media scene that the only man worth getting horizontal with at

the Groucho Club was a young critic called Tom. You knew Tom was brilliant in bed because the minute the talk turned to matters sportif, Tom would yawn, down his vodka-tini and say loudly, "God I hate sport! Especially football! Why would anybody bother once they'd left school?")

And no man can stand the idea that a woman prefers someone else sexually to him; it makes him see red. When Simpson, Tyson or Gascoigne slap, rape or attack a woman who has rejected them, they do it for their fans as well — as surely as they land that punch or score that goal. Sport has become a continuation of the sex war for men who are not man enough to see a woman stand on her feet without the burning desire to knock her on to her knees. They are sad but suitable icons for a lost generation of men who have refused to learn either the best things their fathers could have taught them or the best things feminism could have taught them. And as we thirtysomething women flounce off with our girlfriends, our sugar daddies or our young boy-friends, we wish the whole sad sorry bunch of them much joy.

So what's your poison?

We are what we eat, but what we eat is increasingly packed with toxins. John Vidal lunches with a Frenchman who has charted his country's fall from grace and finds things here equally indigestible

sail round the world. When you are 40, you can "go fishing". non? M Gerard Pouradier, 40, is as expansive as any French wine-lover

He has written a best-seller that lifts the lid off the French food and drink industry, he has been eating mullet in Madcowland and now, spinnaker set for a bibulous afternoon, he's in the Terrace restaurant of Le Meridien Hotel in Picca-dilly. He is contemplating spools and dry flies when un catastrophe

An English fly is swimming in M Pouradier's wine. He watches it. Clearly the fly is a metaphor for the myriad toxins that he says are now in the bloodstream of the world's premier food-producing country. This, he intimates, looking at his polluted liquid, is what is happening to French water, to French croissants and cheeses, hams and spinaches. It's like finding propyl, octyl and dodecyl gallate all together in a baguette. An aberration of nature.

"It is a good wine, yes? Even your flies like it." A new bottle

But how good is French food and wine? Pouradier, an investi-gative journalist, has been smiffing around farms, abattoirs, vineyards and food-processing plants. The noble rot, he concludes after years of research, has sunk low. In 1994, of 3,733 wine-making es-tablishments inspected by the French fraud squad, 1,380 were issued with warnings and hun-drads were charged with offences ranging from falsification to misleading publicity, unauthorised blending, deception and illegal urigation.

The situation is worse than any-one thinks. Do we English know that in certain parts of France wine growers have stopped using vine shoots to kindle fires because they are now so heavily impregnated with insecticides and other toxic chemicals that there is a serious risk of being poisoned? And do we know that there's been a huge trade in fake Chateauneuf du Pape produced by discolouring red wine? Or that some wine is pas-teurised so it can travel further, that cloned vines need more fortifi-cation so people are using depres-surisation and vacuums, even add-

ing glycerol? Pouradier drains his glass. Now he's conspiratorial. "Some wine growers are like the sorcerer's apprentice", he says. "In the Champrentice", he says. In the Chain-pagne region, wine-makers have been supplied by a certain town with special industrial sludge os-tensibly to enrich and stabilise the soil. The mutant vine is

So should we send back this San-cerre? Bah, non. It is a most excellent Domaine Henri Pelle 1995. So why did M Pouradier take one sip of the Chahlis La Colombe Louis Alexandre a few minutes earlier and then return it? Why did he also refuse the Sauvignon de Tou-raine La Chappelle de Cray? A trace of added bull's blood, a hint of dodgy fish meal, a bouquet of gelatin or artificial yeast, all - it seems - normal practices among the unscrupulous French vintners? No, the one was 1994 vintage - too old to drink properly, he says - the other was the wrong

But only for a minute. Pouradier

AT FRESH FISH. has collected facts from many Drink good wine. Up with ze anchor and story of compliant consumers sources and is spinning a terrible story of compliant consumers being walked over by a ruthless ever more intensive industry in whose kitchens professors of chemistry are even now concoct-ing cocktalls of additives, colourants, preservatives, flavourings, hormones, odourants. Consumers, he says, are getting next to no

> It occurs that Pourcedler could be a MAFF agent, so virulent is his documents mad, ignorant farmers

overspraying mone-treated secret laboratories turning bolic steroids which trafficked like hard drugs in

grams secret rendezyear summonsed roid abuse: 21 ers, breeders, feed-makers and butchers MOLG The charges

ara serious and they have shocked the French, but they could be levelled equally at British intensive farmers, food manufacturers and chemical companies, he says. BSE is only a symptom of the insanity that is affecting food producers. Technology, it seems, is running out of control. In tabloid headline terms (because that, with humour, is how M Pouradier writes for best effect): EURO AGRO SLEAZE SHOCK HORROR SCANDAL An increasingly secre tive industry is in league with agro chemical giants, Eurocrats and politicians. Their machinations are now a matter of national

But there's more: the real danger is in what we do with mass-produced foods, which he believes are killing thousands of people a year and slowly poisoning mil-

Today ou know that the toxic anti-oxidants that go into potato flakes and chewing gum collect heavy metals and are made of personal and are made o

troleum? " No. "That scientists are already blathering about individual counters', like Geiger counters, that will allow each of us to calculate our own daily contamination

HE FOOD industry in France - "It is the same here in Madcowland, my English friend" — is now run-ning so fast and loose with its chemicals, its additives and its new gene manipulation and ingredients that it is impossible for the authorities even to

monitor it properly. But we are still, metaphorically, on the hors d'oeuvres of his argument. Cereal farmers, he says, can now use enough poison in one season to contaminate a medium-

sized town. A fruit farmer, who once might have used just paraffin oil on his trees has a choice of 23 different copper-based fungicides, eight sulphur, six captan, five thiophanate-methyls, one thiram and one oxine copper treatments.

And that's not including the insecticides, says Pouradier, draining his glass: "He can choose from 14 treatments of phosalone, five chinomethionats, one tetrasul and parathion. Not forgetting specialised chemicals for enhancing the colour of the fruit like naphthaleneacetic acid or urea." And when he's not sprinkling his cherries with hormones, the "disillusioned man of the soil" is disinfecting his strawberries and tomatoes with evil methyl bromide without much of a clue about the doses or

So what would Pouradier - a man who loves his food, loves spending four hours on a meal recommend to eat? "Fish and rice. But take care of the water."

The waitress says she would



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TETTH A HINT OF PRINT

haven't had a day off in months

MATTHEW RICHARDSON

No I don't. POURADIER: Are you happy to believe your government on food?

POURADIER: Do you believe the supermarkets? CHEF: That depends. Any industry will distort the facts.

POURADIER: So who do you be

biologist. He's very cynical. POURADIER: If you are not cyni-cal, you are stupid. There are now two systems of food for health. If you are rich you come here, and you take care of yourself. If you are poor you go to the supermarket. CHEF: What I find is that the food I am delivered is sometimes not as

good as in the supermarkets Chef has just been told he can serve British beef again after a sixmonth break. M Pouradier has made hay with the BSE crisis, which has helped sell his book. So far, he says, one Frenchman has officially (and five unofficially) died of CJD, at least 30 vaches are con-firmed folles et mories, several herds have been slaughtered, and there's mounting evidence that the French, too, have been giving cheap and dodgy English-style feed

to their cows.
So is there a French cover-up? ter in France and that beef sales are down 40 per cent, is enigmatic: "When the nuclear cloud came from Chernobyl, it officially stopped at the French border. I have no confidence in the

Does he see more BSE?: "Of

CHEF: And what is the next really big food scare? What should we really fear? Say in 20 years' time? POURADIER: My worst fear is that within five or six years there will be a real lack of pure water.

Lyonnat Lussac-St Emilion later and it occurs that the food industry, the chemical industry, the farmers, the governments, even the press would love to dismiss Pouradier as a scare-monger. Hasn't he put together a lot of random facts without supporting scientific argu-ments? Is he not just profiting from the weekly food crises? Where are

his references, the names?

Everything, he says, is proved and documented. He has sources in industry, government, companies. People just do not want to hear the message, and to rectify the problem would mean razing most of France (and Britain).

Much is on the record anyway. The 1994 report of the French De-partment of Consumption, Compe-tition and the Suppression of Fraud was devastating: more than 60 per cent of supermarket ham contained unauthorised additives, or permitted ones in excessive quantities; 58 per cent of processed meats do not conform to regulations and 30 per cent of French cheeses contain ille-

gal substances.
The mind boggles. Pouradier pounces on an innocent-looking paper package of a low-calorie sugar sweetener. "Look", he says triumphantly. "It is made with phenylanine. It makes you crazy.

recommend everything on the menu except the Caesar Salad and the (spiced lamb) stew. So what's the provenance of the salmon,

which comes with bacon, capers, and watercress? She goes to the

kitchens: The cress is from

France, the fish from Norway, the

capers are Greek and the bacon

Danish. She's from Austria and about the only native English

thing in the restaurant is her

wage: "It is very small", she says. Like a pea? Un petit pea. [ENTER LE CHEF — young.

English, trained at the Ritz and in-

terested in oriental foods. In the en-

suing round-table discussion of food quality, which engages wait-

resses and passers-by, it emerges that he would not like the idea of

limiting his menus to root vegeta-

bles and potatoes. He is not about to

go organic. He regrets that he con-not afford to put wild salmon on the

POURADIER: Do you talk about

CHEF: To be absolutely honest, no.

food quality and chemicals?

In France it is a big political scan-dal. What is it? A paint stripper!"

But by this time the bottles are empty, the words slower. The anchor must come up. Across Lon-don, the head of a multi-billion pounds a year food company is tell-ing Zimbabwean farmers, charities and food groups that organic foods made without chemicals are "totally irrelevant" for feeding the world; the Consumers' Association is reporting that half the British supermarket chickens it has inspected are unfit for human consumption; and now a magazine reports that many soft drinks are dangerously full of chemicals. POURADIER: We know there are

no illusions any more. And with that he sets sail for

The Rubbish On Our Plates, by Fabien Perrucca and Gerard Pouradier, is I work here 16 hours a day. I published by Prion Books at £8.99

SHOOTING STARS

Up . . . First saxophonist to graduate from the Royal College of Music

with 100 per cent, and accompani-

responsible for sharing Sir Harrison

Birtwistle's not-so-melodious tunes with the rabble at the Last Night of

the Proms 1995, Harle acquits him-

self admirably and still gets boosd.

Land Of Hope And Glory it ain't.

And away . . . in a still more dra-

album Terror & Magnificance fea-tures original music both jazzy and

Costello and jazz sexophonist Andy

Aberdeen tonight; for Harle, so long

the shadowy virtuoso, that's practi-

Going . . . For many a long year the disseminator of homespun philoso-

phy as scriptwriter of The Liver Birds,

brand of comedy-without-laughs is on the wane by the early nineties,

Going . . . An animal rights activist,

Lane buys an island and gives it to the

LA restaurant and slings 'em into the sea, and finally gets arrested at Dover

for protesting against animal exports.

Gone . . The Liver Birds returns in a

blaze of publicity. This very week, it gets the chop, "by mutual agreement" says the BBC. Carla has a pop at the critics: "Some of them just

hammer everything I do." Never mind

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the protests against seal-clubbing; who'll defend this put-upon word-

smith from Carla-clubbing?

asts, buys four lobster in a swanky

files and Bread. But her unique

Sheppard. His own tour begins in

medieval, performed by Élvis

ment to McDonald's commercials.

Harle establishes himself as the world's best classical saxophonist.

Up . . . As the men with the parp Having 'practically collapsed' in the studio, the world's second-biggest band have postponed the release of their new album. The accountants are worried, as are the shareholders. **Brian Boyd** reports on . . .

The trouble with U2

T A PolyGram sales meeting in Hong company end of the multinational was not having a great year. Its "products" (albums) had not been shifting too many "units" (sales). But, hey, no worries. The band that always brings a smile to the accountants' faces, U2, were to release their new album in November - just in time for the

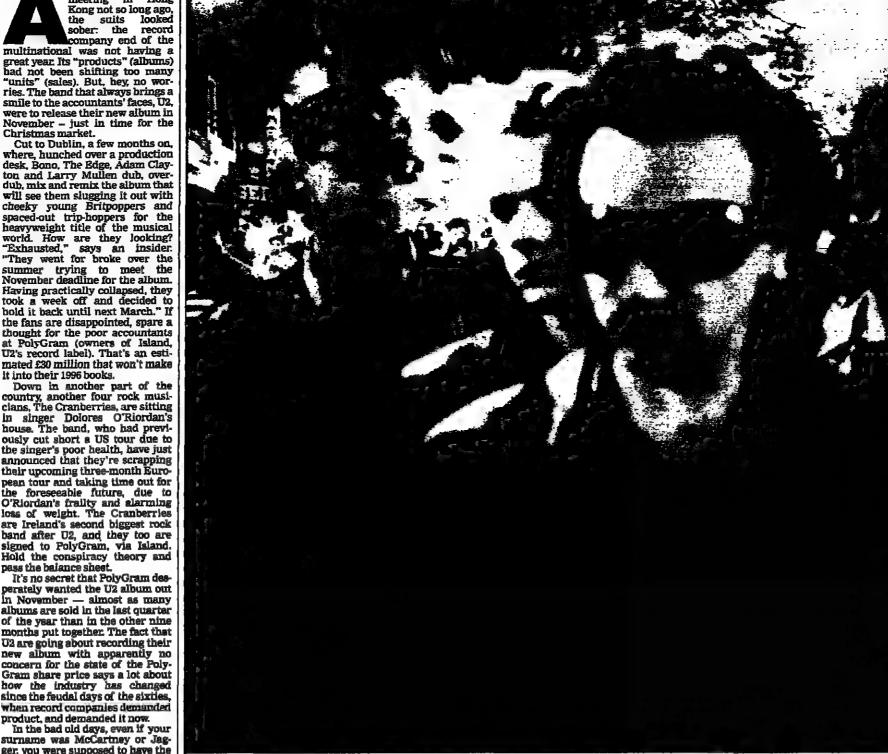
Cut to Dublin, a few months on, where, hunched over a production desk, Bono, The Edge, Adam Clayton and Larry Mullen dub, overdub, mix and remix the album that will see them slugging it out with cheeky young Britpoppers and spaced-out trip-hoppers for the heavyweight title of the musical world. How are they looking? "Exhausted," says an insider. "They went for broke over the summer trying to meet the November deadline for the album. Having practically collapsed, they took a week off and decided to bold it back until next March." If the fans are disappointed, spare a thought for the poor accountants at PolyGram (owners of Island, U2's record label). That's an esti-

Down in another part of th country, another four rock musi-clans, The Cranberries, are sitting in singer Dolores O'Riordan's house. The band, who had previ-ously cut short a US tour due to the singer's poor health, have just announced that they're scrapping their upcoming three-month European tour and taking time out for the foreseeable future, due to O'Riordan's frailty and alarming loss of weight. The Cranberries are Ireland's second biggest rock band after U2, and they too are signed to PolyGram, via Island Hold the conspiracy theory and pass the balance sheet.

It's no secret that PolyGram des perately wanted the U2 album out in November — almost as many albums are sold in the last quarter of the year than in the other nine months put together. The fact that U2 are going about recording their new album with apparently no concern for the state of the Poly-Gram share price says a lot about since the feudal days of the sixtles, when record companies demanded product, and demanded it now.

In the bad old days, even if your surname was McCartney or Jagger, you were supposed to have the good grace to keep the product churning out at regular intervals. Now the "creatives", it seems, have taken over the boardroom, dent teams of managers, consul ants and lawyers, the biggest and best — U2 and their friendly rivals REM — are refusing to record on demand and to spend years on the road touring. The more audacious ones are even seeking to control their copyright, which is some-thing The Beatles never asked for

REM sold in the region of 15 million copies of their albums Out Of Time and Automatic For The People, becoming one of the biggest earners for their record company, Warners. Last month they were reputed to have signed a new \$80-million deal with the company — just as the last album under their old contract failed to reach number one in the US charts and suffered falling sales each week since. It's now three-and-a-half years since U2's last album, Zooropa (consider the career-end-



Close to The Rage . . . U2 'are nervous about the trip-hop sound on the new album', says an insider

ing five-year break The Stone Roses took between albums) and, uniquely for them, Zooropa was | bers and their manager Paul | gestation period U2 had. Their sec- sound that dominated their early ond album sold more than 10 million copies, the band embarked on when they became a stadium rock the first that falled to outsell its predecessor Achtung Baby (1991) shifted 10 million copies worldwide, to Zooropa's 7.8 million. today, it's important to know

where they are coming from. They are "different", as the people who have worked closely with them over the years put it. They have been together for nearly 20 years, thanks to their close friendship that goes back to schooldays, and thanks also to the fact that they successfully negotiated their way through the money problems that break many a band up once success comes a-calling. U2 have a curious financial arrangement despite the fact that Bono writes most of the lyrics and guitarist The Edge writes most of the music, all royalties are split five ways between the four band mem-

money involved, and one of the reasons why they've had no major personnel problems over the years," says a source close to the band. They each have personal fortunes of £75 million — amassed through a larger than average roy-

alty deal on their albums. Because their success and fame was built up over a long period of time — they didn't break the American market until their fifth album, The Joshua Tree (1987) — they have never suffered from the type of celebrity psychosis that has put the skids on many other bands' careers. Interesting to note that The Cranberries, the only other Irish rock band who come anywhere near them in terms of sales, broke America with their debut album and had fame flung at them from a great height. The Cranberries never had the same

a year-long world tour took a few weeks off, recorded their third alhum in three weeks and ther went out on an 18-month world tour. Little surprise that Dolores O'Riordan's current Ilmess, which is believed to be stress-related, has knocked the band out of action for an indeterminate period of time More bad news for the PolyGram accountants

The delay on U2's album, according to insiders, is down to the fact that they "have always been musically ambitious and they like to change their sound. When you have been the biggest and the best band in the world and you want to change your sound, it's a very fraught business, there is pressure on." U2 have made significant changes in their musical direction over the years. From the traditional guitar, base and drum

such as Tricky Portished and Massive Attack brought to frominence last year. "The band are nervous about the trip-hop sound on the album," says the insider, "and there's been a lot of twidding going on with the tracks."

Us have recorded about 30 new records for the album, waterished.

songs for the album, provisionally titled Expect Nothing But The Best. The first single off the album. Discotheque, is in he released at the beginning of Feb. reary. With no shortage of songs the album's delay apart from the switch in musical styles, is also being attributed to the band's "fantastically indecisive nature—they're quite capable of sifting around for four days wondering about it all and then recording on

the fifth day."

The band are committed to touring the new album and indications are that they are determined to top 1993's extravagant Zooropa roadshow with one of the largest rock tours ever undertaken. They ve already hired the services of Michael Cohl, a Canadian pro-moter who was behind the Rolling Stones 1994 Steel Wheels four the

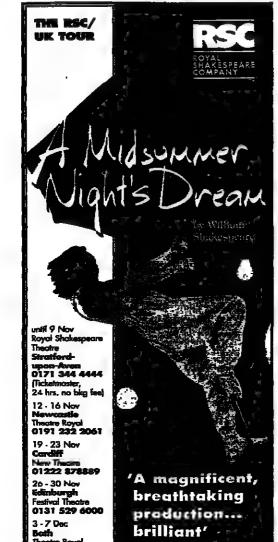
highest grossing rock tour ever. Despite U2's wealth, money is an issue. The Zooropa four, despite selling out in almost every venue it played, only broke even (at best) due to the huge production costs involved. Perhaps inevitably the issue of sponsorship, not U2's favourite word, has now raised it's

alluring head. Uz's manager, Paul McGulmess has criticised Michael Jackson, Paul McCartney and The Who for accepting corporate sponsorship for their tours. But speaking to the Guardian this week, McGuinness said "people know my feelings about band's using inappropriate sponsorship on their tours, the sort of sponsor ship that demeans the artist and is without any sense of dignity We are currently being approached by nimber of Information technol ogy companies and considering our options. In the past we've never had any problem with instrument manufacturers like Yamaha, our problem is with branded consumer goods."

It is believed that U2 would need something like \$100 -million in sponsorship revenue for the tour, and names that have been men-tioned, but not confirmed, include AT&T and Apple Computers. The Disney corporation have already been turned down.

Speaking about the band's record company and the new album, McGuinness said: "Between PolyGram and us is Island, and Island are as independent as a wholly owned subsidiary can be. I believe PolyGram respect problem with the delay in the album is that forecasts are made and expectations generated. Poly-Gram have to acknowledge that the creative process is imprecise The new album is a complex musical effort. It takes time."

In the past U2 have proved themserves to be musically flexible. As they work on the new album, they know that anything less than a consolidation of their pre-eminent position will be considered a fall-ure and, as the provisional title suggests, that nothing but the best is expected. By the fame and the



Anyone who wants to perform so-called 'comedy' in public should have to pass a stringent exam, says former gag writer **P B Davies**

Licensed to laugh

Provocations

AUGHTER used to be the

best medicine; now it's the illness itself — an ssive/compulsive disorder afflicting millions. Some patients suffer delusions that they themselves are funny, others simply can't comprehend anything that doesn't strive for humour, however ineptly.
But it seems that comedy—
unlike tragedy— is a finite
commodity. The more people attempt it, the thinner it is spread. In countless rooms upstairs in pubs, desperate audiences indulge wannabe comedians who know of nothing of life. As they proudly deliver their stillborn insights, television producers hover, chuckling professionally and sniffing for meat, however lean, that can be stuffed into the comedy sausage-machine and processed into the next new-lad smugfest or "know-ingly" dire quiz show. And in the promised land of broad-casting, even the continuity announcers grope for irony, while repulsive DJs surround themselves with shrieking sycophants to let us know how funny they are. Now, the virus has spread

from the media to infect every cranny of modern life. Even the Church — traditionally a pretty reliable haven for a few glum moments — has been invaded by "charismatics" performing the Toronto Blessing, in which the congregation laughs itself into a frenzy before crashing to the



ground and doing animal

impressions for the rest of the service. In Umberto Eco's The Name Of The Rose, the character of Brother Jorge fiendishly suppresses the only remaining copy of a "lost" work by Aristotle, lest it corrupt the pious by its alleged endorsement of laughter as a force for good. At the time of publica-tion, we assumed that Jorge was the villain of the piece. visionary sage who saw the truth: comedy is insidious. Not for the reasons that its modern practitioners would like to imagine — that it's anarchic and irreverent — but because it nas become conventional and boring, stultifying our percep-tions rather than enriching them. Even Aristotle must have had his off days and if, on one of them, he produced a work encouraging the trend that has reached its nadir with the current breed of comedians and media personalities — most of whom have nothing to offer

except a breathtakingly high

he should sit in hell, watching Game On for ever.

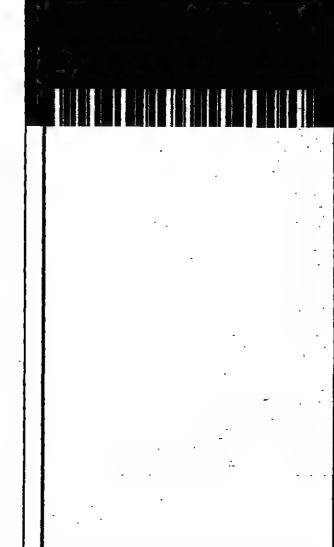
Anyway, it's time for the backlash. From now on, anyone who wants to be funny in public will have to pass a ferociously difficult exam. It will encompass both theory and practice, with sections that are written, oral and, of course, anal.

oral and, or course, anal.

Familiarity with classic texts
will be required, but only to
remind applicants of how much
better the material they are stealing was the first time around. Hang on. I've just done it, haven't I? "Written, oral and anal." Trying to be funny. And now, blatant self-referential deconstruction. OK, it's a fair cop and I should declare some previous form. I used to make a living writing comedy — soft-option Thatcher-bashing gags for Spitting Image, observational irrelevances for

Jasper Carrot, strangely una-musing sketches for Weekending. About the only honest work I can look back on with pride was the stream of shameless ribaldry that I delivered to Roy Hudd, upon which ne worked an age-old magic to make innocent, harmless people laugh out loud. But that was nothing to do with modern comedy — it was more like being one among several generations of workmen, building a medieval cathedral. And now I've seen the light: you can be funny about some things all of the time, and all things some of the time, but apart from that, Mrs Lincoln, how did you enjoy the play?

Blast. Done it again. There must be something I can take.



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band (the Simple Minds syn-

drome) they made a vertical

change in direction with the

release of Achtung Baby in 1991,

embracing dance culture, intro-

ducing hip-hop rhythms, sequencers and synthesisers. The new and, for many, improved.

sound introduced them to a new,

younger public and, for the first time in their career, U2 were

becoming as big a hit on the dance

floor as they were in the stadiums.

It is known that the band are

oing after a "trip-hop" sound on

the new album - trip-hop being the

slowed down hip-hop that acts.

Ir Blok

二十二年 医肾炎



estponed the rela

TV by mob rule

ENNY JONES (Sky One) was about teenagers who have breast implants. But, while there were enough DD cups on display to satisfy Russ Meyer, what was really impressive and depressing about this freak show was the range of unlikely stories the guests had to relate. If nothing else, researchers really earn their crusts on American crying-

Teri had bought Ashley, 17, implants for Christmas in order to improve her daugh-ter's self-esteem. Mother Mary and daughter Michelle were saving so that they could have boob lobs together.

Kisandra Bascombe's implants had become squeezed together, joined by scar tissue. Despite this, her daughter, Chea. 19, had saved \$5,000 to secretly pay for her own implants. But boys now looked at her in a different way: "They see me as stupid, which I'm by no means stupid [sic]. I think my body pre-empts my brain." Even so, she was planning to have further breast enlargement. A woman in the audience stood up. "OK, you're a beautiful woman, OK? Why don't you spend that \$5,000 on an educa-tion — because brains will get you much further than breasts." "Woo! Woo! Yeah! All righti" bayed the audience. applauding wildly. In fact, Chea already had a full scholarship

This exchange and this programme typified the exploita-tive catastrophe of confessional TV. Just as breast implants help

Arise

The Santal of

Mr Bloke

oyal addlence? To answer, in the BBC's case,

Sunday, Andy Kershaw's two-hour Radio 1 show, a long-time

occupant of the Sunday 10pm

slot, was moved to midnight to make way for a new album pro-

gramme. According to a BBC

spokesperson, Kershaw was shunted later because he has a

managed to cultivate a disloyal

one, he'd have been allowed to

One suspects that the same

Chris Evans. Or is "dedicated"

a cuphemism for "small"? And

Presenter Stuart Maconie is squarely in the male, fast-talk-

ing, regional-accented, ironic

mode, much like Kershaw him-self (and John Peel and Mark

Radcliffe. Is this now the stan-dard sound of Radio 1? I like it

though his musical tastes are

different. Here he plays album

tracks new as well as classic, and witty listeners "test drive"

new albums. Kershaw, mean-

while, continues single-handedly to track down every

second young, gifted and unknown black World band, as

well as playing extraordinary old blues singers such as Blind

week devoted most of his show

Mississippi Morris, and last

to Haitian-American rappers,

the Fugees. Even if it doesn't

Margaret Atwood

make full use of Maconie's tal-

myself, I'm only asking).

logic wouldn't be applied to

loyal and dedicated audience

which will follow him any-

where. (Presumably, had he

remain in the old slot.)

what of the new show?

seems to be to shit on them

from a great height. Last

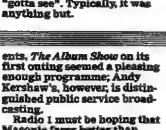
to reduce women to sex objects likely to attract the most drooling, oafish sort of interest, so appearing on Jenny Jones withers guests' lives to unedifying commodities, converting experi-ences into spectacle for strangers' titillation.

I used to be naive enough to think that buttoned-up British people could benefit from these imported emotional tempests. Watching Ricki Lake (Channel 4), especially, cured me. There's a vile mob rule on this show, incited by the host. Jenny Jones was about implants, probably because the host has them; Ricki Lake was about

daughters who don't want to be fat like their mothers, probably because the host herself was fat. Both shows played daughters off against their mothers, the drama of the ungrateful the drama of the ungrateful offspring or the callous parent is 90 readily engaging. One daughter said she feared her mother's fat made people see her as a thing rather than a

person. "But we see the real per-son underneath, don't we?" Ricki asked the studio audience, who whooped their affirmation. Rhetorical questions on Ricki Lake always provoke whoops, never reflection. Did the audience really see the person underneath? After all, she had only been on the stage for two But if Jenny and Ricki are

standing in the gutter and only looking at the stars when they're from Hollywood, The Oprah Winfrey Show (Sky One) has evolved into something duplications—the mask of public service broadcasting behind which are the crying confessees and their remarkable stories. This show offered tips for children for avoiding abduction: if you're thrown in the boot by an abductor, kick out the tail lights, that kind of thing. This was, Oprah assured us, essential viewing. But surely we were watching chiefly to hear the stories (such as the plucky boy who had been watching Home Alone - irony! - when the robbers broke in), rather than to be empowered. In the commercial breaks for Oprah. Sally Jessy Raphael (Sky One) assured us that her show, about children who have died in domestic accidents, was also a "gotta see". Typically, it was anything but.



Maconic fares better than Danny Baker, who disappeared off the face of the network three weeks ago, just two years after his trumpeted debut. But Baker is back on Radio 5 Live doing the thing he does best, gabbing about sport. His new Wednesday show, The Baker Line, is a football fanzine, a fans' phone-in not unlike Six-O-Six before David M*** or took it over from him. (I had hoped to get through my reviewing career without ever mentioning

M***or but, there, I've failed.) Programme one was lively ing the sacking of all referees, and exhorting disgruntled Brighton fans to occupy their stadium. Though he overdid the self-deprecation bit, along with references to the lateness of the hour (est your heart out, Andy Kershaw), Baker's strength is that he doesn't try to lord it over his callers-in. On the contrary, the opinionated chap chinwags with them on as equal a footing as possible, even reas-suring them that he'll stop talk-ing when they start (not always, gury). Baker's is the voice from the terraces, punter to Mellor's pundit. But wouldn't it be wonderful if men could talk about other subjects with the same passion as they do about foot-ball? Say, cooking? As part of its half-century

celebrations, Radio 3 commis-sioned five new poems, read by their poets. Tom Paulin excelled with The Wind Dog, a plump poem aptly about sound itself, and the way that lan-guage and the spoken word are inextricably bound up with personal memory and feeling. Paulin seemed to delight in its almost-repetitions and fizzing ideas, as he dipped in and out of scenes from childhood. The preceding aural montage was redundant — Paulin's poem tself summoned vignettes, se sations, objects ("cheap tin trays, cheap tin trays. That's the music speaks me, sings me, makes me"), rolling around their names in language at its most labial Radio 3 may have found its bard.

1996 Booker Prize

Shortlisted



This week's plays - including the monster Heathcliff represent a victory for style over content. And they're all the worse for that, says Michael Billington

Cliff hanger

The blockbusters

TYLE or substance? Form or content? Ideally in art the two should mesh so that you cannot see the join. But looking back over this week's theatrical offerings — from the desperately feeble Heathcliff to Stephen Bill's new state-of-the-nation play in Richmond — it strikes me that you can't beat a good theme; that in drama, technical deficiencies matter less than the spectacle of a writer grappling with an impor-

In the woeful Heathcliff, which, incidentally, has already taken 28.5 million in advance sales, there is neither style nor substance. This is not theatre so much as an act of popular worship peri of the veneration of Saint Cliff. The faithful gather in a vast Brum hangar — shortly to stage the Birmingham

The oddity

out first. Then, like the weather man and woman who can never

come out together, Prince Charles

Garden (BBC2) was filmed in May

because his wildflower meadow is at its best then. The Bishop flow-

ared above the buttercups. The

upon the wine when it is red.

pronoun.

and Rosemary Verey.
It was raining relentlessly.

pretending to be a a saturnine gypsy; and their reactions of mock-horror when he strikes his wife or hurls a rival to the ground point up their awareness of the loved object's squeaky-clean image.

I have no objection to Sir Cliff wanting to extend his range; and

the sniping about his age proves totally irrelevant. But there was 10 times as much genuine drama in the moment this summer when he entertained the rain-sodden Wimledon crowd with golden oldies that had the spontaneous combus tion of real theatre. What we get in Heathcliff is more in the way of a contrived apotheosis. If he really wanted to test his mettle as an actor, Sir Cliff would play in genuine theatres and would have written a book-musical that allowed scope for other characters. But the

International Tattoo — not to be told a story or to see Emily Bronte's novel come to life. They have clearly assembled to see their idol really symbolic moment in Heath-cliff comes when the hero stands on top of a crag posing in a manner reminiscent of Caspar David Friedrich's painting, Man And Woman Observing The Moon, the work that actually inspired Walt-ing For Godot. Where Beckett dis-covered an abiding image of desolation, Sir Cliff finds only an

excuse for romantic attitudinising.

A painting is also at the centre
of Yasmina Reza's acclaimed play.
Art, at Wyndham's: the all-white abstract canvas purchased by Serge (Tom Courtenay) and vili-fied by his friend Marc (Albert Finney). It is a highly stylish play and raises all sorts of interesting ideas about the conflict between friendship and art: between the value we attach to a human being and to an inanimate object.

But how much substance does Reza's play really have and how much does it challenge the philistine assumption that modern art

is some kind of licensed fraud? Wouldn't the debate be more intense if Serge had bought, say, a Rothko which his clium then proceeded to deride? And why is Marc's argument that modern art is all based on unrepeatable sur-prise allowed to go unanswered? I found much more substance in a lecture I heard Robert Hughes give at last year's Melbourne Pes-tival. At one point he suggested that the real problem with the avant-garde today is that it is not ahead of anything; that it is venerated, hyped, highly priced and glamorously exhibited and has turned into the new establishment. That is a much more subversive thesis than Reza's familiar argument that the emperor has no

clothes.

The style versus substance debate, however, really gets tricky with Jez Burterworth's Mojo, now revived at the splendidiy dis-tressed Duke of York's; carpets and red plush have been stripped away to give the building the rough-textured feel of Peter Brook's Bouffes du Nord. The revamp suits perfectly Butter-worth's play which presents Soho fifties gang wars in fast-paced, high-octane, movie-influenced dialogue. The opening sticomythia between two minor hoods is as funny as anything you will hear on the London stage: they are awed, for instance, by the footwear of the local Mr Big graphically described as "Baby fuckin' buckskin hand-stitched by elves".

Cliff Richard as Beathcliff ... This is not theatre so much as an act of popular worship

Butterworth is a virtuosic stylist and deserves all the awards showered upon him. But, seeing his play a second time, I had the faint feeling of being taken on an exuberant rollercoaster ride: dangerous, exhilarating but with no visible destination. Butterworth brilliantly recreates a world, like Mamet in American Buffalo, where little men talk big to disguise their own panic and fluster. I admire the play enormously and hope it draws a young audience that would normally go to the movies; but next time out I hope Butterworth discovers a theme as big as his stylistic

The play that gave me most emo-tional satisfaction this week was Stephen Bill's What The Heart Feels, at the Orange Tree. It has plenty of faults which any critic can spot. But it offers an image of Britain which most of us can recognise; and its argument that we are all impoverished by the heedless individualism of the eightles and the loss of public-spirit is one that reverberates long after you have left the theatre. In an ideal world style and substance imperceptibly mix. But for me structural flaws and technical weaknesses pale into insignifi-cance beside the spectacle of a dramatist gripped by necessity of analysing the state of society.

central emotional tangle across,

though much of the staging is unin-

tentionally risible. "You are safe here," Leila cried to Nadir as the

their passion atop a vertiginous ziggurat. As if in answer, the construc-tion began to wobble violently.

It says much for ETO's musician-



Tim Ashley sees English Touring Opera get Pearl Fishers totally wrong

Washed up

The let-down

TO's new production of Pearl
Fishers is a major disappointment from a company whose
artistic record has hitherto been exemplary, and which should have got the piece right. Bizet works best pered down. His musical language is terse and aphoristic. The origins of his theatricality lie not in 19thcentury melodrama, but in the sculpted, gestural theatre of Racine: Pearl Pishers is essentially Berenice transported to Ceylon, As with Racine, the setting matters little. What is important is the emotional interplay of four characters, conveyed by a score in which every note speaks volumes.

Expectations ran high. ETO could have produced an immacu-late piece of small-scale, suitably muted music-theatre. Instead, Caroline Gawn's production, designed by Aldona Cunningham, buries the opera under a heap of post-modern symbolism. We are in a bright blue Hackney Never-Never Land, complete with palm trees and phallic

the Hokusai Wave plausibly sugcate rocks and foliage.

The Pearl Fishers themselves, decked out in crimson satin uni-forms suggesting oilskins and sou'westers, look like the disaffected members of a whaling fleet. Despite the fact that pearls are, I believe, generally found in oyster shells, they carry floppy, green plastic harpoons which they wave from time to time in gestures that are meant to be threatening but that are actually as menacing as sardines on toast. The principals fare little better

Leila, the outsider heroine who causes the emotional damage, arrives kitted out in Edwardian Rai, inexplicably changing into bare midriff and loose hair when victimised. Her stroppy priest, Nourabad, is a luconic Billy Idol lookalike in flowing white chiffon. Zurga, one of the rivals for Leila's affections, is a fetching bit of rough in a black kaftan. The other, Nadir, emerges from the jungle with shoulder-length hair, army jacket and sweat pants.

ship that Bizet emerged from this travesty unscathed. Andrew Greenwood proved yet again to be an

excellent conductor of French music, emphasising the subtle sen-suality of the score. Adrian Clarke's Zurga was a performance of considerable stature, richly sung and dramatically compelling. Jeffrey Stewart negotiated the implacable tessitura of Nadir's arias with ease, succeeding where many a better known tenor has conspicuously failed. As Leila, Sandra Zeltzer was exciting, but somewhat raucous in music that needs more refinement. The chorus can only be described as heroic.

Bizet survived, but the production inevitably begs the question as to whether ETO have lost their way. Accompanying Pearl Fishers on tour is a production of Rigoletto which would grace any international opera house and which gets Verdi's masterpiece as compellingly right as this attempt at Pearl Fishers cets Bizet Wrong. Until now ETO have been one of the most inventive and original opera companies in the country. One only hopes that the interrup-The cast battle bravely to get the | tion of service will be temporary.



Book of the Week Alias Grace

A the age of sixteen Grace was jailed for the cold-blooded murders of her employer and his lover. McDermot, Grace's alleged accomplice, was hanged in 1843, but her sentence was commuted to life. After 16 years, no longer considered mad or dangerous, she claims to have no memory of the murders. As a young doctor

probes her memories the enigma of whether Grace is a feature femme fanale and murderer or an innocent victim unfolds. To order Alias Grace at the special price of £11.99 (mp £16.99) call free now on 12 0500 418 419 or complete this coupon and send it to our address below.

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were clear. "You go first."
"Oh no!" "After you." "No,
come on! You've got to go first."
A small, bustling dog, with no
patience for this sort of thing, shot This dripping image of Prince Charles at Highgrove was used by several papers the day he was divorced it seemed appropriate. In fact The English Country

> Stormy weather ... Prince Charles and Rosemary Verey

Bishop is a purple tulin flushed like a prelate who has looked Queen Mother — was another Mrs Parker Bowles, supposedly, once said: "Come and see my tulips at Highgrove." The Prince of Wales, who poignantly created an English country garden in exile. His brother worked off fierce frustration in the garden. Princess did not appreciate the The young Prince Philip once The last gardener in the royal heard appalling language coming family - unless you count the from the shrubbery. It was the

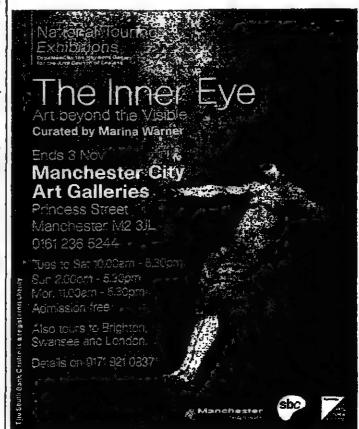
King. The Queen describes herself Prince Charles, a true gardener,

will one day inherit the largest garden in London You could not help noticing, as they squelched around, how often he emphasised the negative, how much he seems to need positive encouragement.

His new fountain would not run clear. She said: "It's nice. You've got to forget it's mucky." Moss would not grow for him. "Moss," she said, "grows where you don't want it." He was pointing out another failure when she said firmly: "Don't look at that Let's only look at the nice things." She might have been his nanny.

He must promise me never again to use that weakening word rather". It was rather fun to bring back pebbles from abroad...
rather wonderful to plant a thyme walk... he was rather pleased with a statue... rather keen on Japanese eardens... rather fascinated by Japanese deer scarers (those bamboo things that go plonk in a pool).

You seem to see him on his knees: 'My back's a nuisance so I kneel in



Halling can clinch title

Ron Cox expects the Godolphin team to complete a

champion double ODAY'S Champion Stakes at Newmarket promises to live up to its name in more ways than one. The winning horse will almost certainly top the mile and a quarter ratings at the end of the season; victory for Halling or Bosra Sham will almost certainly

decide the Flat trainers' championship.
The duel between Godolphin's Saeed bin Suroor, trainer of Halling, and Henry Cecil, who pins his faith in Bosra Sham, is not about money slone even though both camps might like to play

it down. This season's victories by Mark Of Esteem, the horse at the centre of the rift between Sheikh Mohammed, the man behind the Godolphin opera-tion, and Cecil have largely helped put Saeed bin Suroor at the head of affairs.

Cecil, who trained Mark Of Esteem last year, went £54,000 behind his rival when Moonlight Paradise won at New-market yesterday. Big-money opportunities are running out and today's £174,000 first

For Cecil, the drama does not end there. Bosra Sham's well-chronicled foot problem at one stage made today's showdown unlikely. But the filly appears to have come through and victory over Halling would be doubly sweet after Bosra Sham's defest by none other than Mark Of Esteem at Ascot.

York, so in terms of form Bosra Sham and Halling are on a par. But this is Bosra Sham's first run beyond a mile and there could be something prophetic about the full title of today's race.
It is, after all, the Dubai

Champion Stakes and in Halling (4.15) the sponsors have an outstanding 10-furlong performer. He fairly eats up the ground when sent about his business and in this small field Frankle Dettori should be able to execute the front-running tactics which

suit his pariner so well.

Championship "deciders"
have a habit of falling flat in
racing and it would be no great surprise if Timarida spoiled the script. But a set-back earlier this week, when she was reported to have coughed, has seen Timarida take a walk in the betting. She could not be backed with

It is with each-way betting uppermost in mind that Good Hand (3.00) is put forward in the Tote Cesarewitch. Claimed out of Bill Watts's yard in June, the 10-year-old has taken on a new lease of life for his new stable, winning twice over hurdles and twice on the Flat.

A whole host of fancied horses have been beaten in the Cesarewitch because they fail to see out the testing two and today's £174,000 first prize has taken on vital importance.

Englishment of the first prize has taken on vital importance.

Englishment of the first prize the first prize and a quarter miles trip. But Good Hand stays all day and at 33-1 his change of the first prize be underestimated.

Jivush and Canon Can have dominated ante-post betting, but this is a tough race for three-year-olds and Canon looks decidedly suspect.

Gladys Althorpe (1.45) had no luck in running when est by none other than Mark second to High Premium at Mark Esteem at Ascot. Haydock. Still on the up-First Island was four grade, Les Eyre's filly can get lengths back in third place us off to a good start on anthat day, after finishing three lengths adrift of Halling at punters.

Bosra Sham pleases Cecil

Stakes eased yesterday. The filly, who had a bruised foot earlier in the week, was reported in tip top shape by trainer Henry Cecil.

"I am very happy with her now," said Cecil. "She moved beautifully this morning and licked up afterwards, which she wouldn't do if she was

1,45 GLADYS ALTHORPE AGE

EARS about Bosra Sham faciling the bruise. She missing today's Champion jumping and kicking and jumping and kicking and as long as nothing terrible hap-pens in the next 24 hours she will be fine. The pulse in her foot is getting cooler and there will be no excuses if she

does run. "When I discovered the problem on Wednesday night I didn't aleep at all but I will sleep very well tonight."

4.15 Halling 4.45 Wild



That's my boy . . . In Command receives a welcoming pat after winning yesterday's Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket

In Command is best of the bunch

Breham Ness

HE Dewhurst Stakes has produced many champions over the years, but it will be a surprise if any of yester-day's field at Newmarket emerges as a force for the Classics next season. In Command scrambled

home in a bunch finish and is 25-1 with Coral's for the 2,000 Guineas. Barry Hills's colt had a head to spare over Musical Pursuit, with Air Express a neck away third and Bahamian Bounty a close fourth.

The winner had finished

third to Bahamian Bounty in the Middle Park Stakes, following a good second to Bahhare in the Champagne Stakes. Rain through the morn-

good, which probably pagne Stakes winner to

Bahhare remains favour-ite for the Guineas, ahead

of Revoque, with Lad-brokes' 5-1 and 7-1 the best prices on offer. Rival bookmakers cut the odds of the front pair when it was ap-parent that no serious rival had emerged from yesterday's trial.

Unless the Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster next Saturday throws up an im-pressive winner, Bahhare will maintain his position at the head of the ante-post through the winter.

After the race Sheikh Mohammed said that Bahhare would remain in England for his Classic preparation. Originally Sheikh Hamdan, the colt's owner, had ining had eased the ground to tended to fly the Cham-

1997 would be increased over this year's total of 40, with more yearlings being

added to the consignment. "It is still an experiment, but we are learning more each year," he said. Bahamian Bounty will be among the two-year-olds to benefit from the Middle-Eastern

Sheikh Mohammed confirmed that the Challenge Stakes winner Charnwood Forest would accompany
Mark Of Esteem to the
Breeders' Cup Mile. The
coit will carry the Godolphin colours, but he has been sold to the Rathbarry Stud in Ireland, where he will stand as a stallion next

Barry Hills was pleased

3.15 Glory Princess

helped In Command to show improved form, but the result was generally greeted with indifference.

Bahhare remains favour.

Bahhare remains favour the four the Guiness should be improved to the four the Guiness should be improved form, but the four two particles of the season. "I was conceding 2th to her rival, a remarkably display of consistency from these two high-class fillies."

horse has obviously im-proved a bit, and he should stay a mile next year." Moonlight Paradise confirmed her Cheveley Park Stakes superiority over Dazzle with a smooth vic-

tory in the Rockfel Stakes. Sweeping past More Silver with two furlongs remaining, Moonlight Paradise was immediately challenged by Dazzle, but in the final furlong the winner proved comfortably the stronger, scoring by two and a half lengths.

The pair had met at level weights over this course last time, with Moonlight Paradise a length and a half | 16's.

The winner is a best-priced 8-1 with Ladbrokes trained a Group winner, every year since the Pat-tern started in 1971. This for the 1,000 Guineas. fourth-best behind the 7-2 favourite, Sleepytime. At this stage, the value-

for-money bet in the 1,000 Guineas is probably Pas de Reponse, surprisingly on offer at 12-1 with Ladbrokes. By Danzig out of a Mr Prospector mare, she is bred to stay a mile and Criquette Head's filly has proved herself superior to yesterday's field.

Mark Of Esteem attracted plenty of support for next Saturday's Breeders' Cup Mile. He was backed down from 2-1 to 13-8 with Cor-al's while Charnwood Forest was cut to 10-1 from

Tennis

Henman on new high

FREE-FLOWING TIE Henman enjoyed the second finest victory of his burgeoning career when he best Wayne Ferreira, the world No.7. by 6-4, 6-8 to reach the semi-finals of the Czech Indoor Open in Ostraw

yesterday.
The British No.1 under lined his growing reputation on the circuit by following his victory over Greg Rusedski with an even more convinc-ing straight-sets success against the South African, seeded second in Ostrava. The 22-year-old Hennian is

still seeking his first major tournament triumph but now, after reaching his sixth semifinal this year, appears to have a slightly easier last hurdle to the final than he

Instead of renewing rivalry with his Wimbledon conqueror Todd Martin, whom Henman then beat in the US Open, the Briton now meets the unseeded German David Prinosil, who best the 6th sinquarter-final.

Henman, seeded seventh here, will benefit from his latest semi-final appearance by rising from his current No. 26 world ranking in the ATP's latest list to be issued on Monday. The Oxford-born player

claimed his best-ever win when he knocked out the Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov, then ranked world No.5, in the first round at Wimbledon

in June.
In Hong Kong, the world No. I Pete Sampras and the third-ranked Thomas Muster were eliminated in the Marlboro Championships.
Sampras fell to Zimhabwe's
Byron Black, ranked 47th, by
8-4, 6-2, while Muster, strug-

gling with a hip injury and flu, was beaten 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 by Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman. At home, Sam Smith recov-

ered from a set and 2-0 down to upset the German top seed Elena Wagner 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 in the quarter-finals of the Tex-aco Ladies Challenger in The match continued to be a test of mental strength for the British No. 1, who missed a match point at 6-5 in the

break with a loss of only four points. Smith now meets the fast-improving French 17-year-old Anne-Gaelle Sidot in today's <u>jemi-finals.</u>

deciding set. But the Essex player dominated the tie-

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310	216004 SEA VICTOR (11) (D) J L Harris 4-8-5	B Doyle 24
311	022010 EN VACANCES (45) A Poster 4-8-5	T Sprake 13
312	432205 ENERYOROC (2:1) R Platter 4-8-4	
313	/3/9-600 TRANSCLOT (24) (CD) J Fiz:Gerald 9-8-5	L Clargeck 11
314	305450 SLAZE AWAY (19) (8F) Balding 5-8-2	
315	033050 SECRET SERVICE (22) C Thornton 4-7-13	
316	50-3411 CARON CAN (46) (C) (D) H Cacil 3-7-13	
317	20221 FLOATING LIRU (15) (C) & Alston 8-7-10	
218	130084 PARADOSE MAYY (11) (D) C Egeston 7-7-10	
218	041221 CHR19'S LAD (50) B Moshen 5-7-10	
320	100411 QOOD HAND (21) (4b ex) (D) 8 Kettlewell 10-7-10	0 Explored 6
321	0/210F-0 REMAMAY PETE (131) M Pipe 8-7-10	
322	040-021 INCHCABLOGE (11) J King 7-7-10	R Ffrench (7) 15
323	000001 SEA PLANE (20) A Balts 7-7-10	W Meeting 23 ±
324	400545 WITHEY-OS-BENGERAC (96) J Moore 4-7-10	20 مصطفح السب
325	11210-F CLARREST/AN (90 M Tomobios 4-7-10	D Wright (3) 21
326	0-65018 GRANEY PELL (135) P Hayward 6-7-10	P Dos (7) 1

ne, 9-7 Crimson Tide, 6-1 Gene

TOP PORRE TEPS: Jhysek B. Iver's Plutter 7, Ballysskelly 6 Bettling 4-1 Jyush 9-2 Caron Car 7-1 Orchests Stall. 10-1 Ivor's Flutter, Cardie Smile, Ballyna 28 ross ny. NNt: Tracked leaders, led over 14 out, stayed on strongly, beet Kriete's Paradise 71 (Pon

2nd3. (dd).

ORCHESTRA STALLI Led over 25 and, soon clear, essend lowered finish, bi EMSRYONEC (roc 25), 5, with HARBOUR ISLAND (gave 20) another US away and (Neucastie 2n. Gd).

ROWS INJUSTRE: Repid headway over 11 and, and on well, 23 4th of 18 bits Fellyama Crest, with EMSRYONEC (roc 85) 11 away bits (Ascot 2m/6), 66-Fm).

EMSRYONEC (roc 85) 11 away bits (Ascot 2m/6), 66-Fm) from Asterias (Goodwood 2n. Gd-Fm).

EALLYMAKSEL/h; Prominent, led over 4 aut, ran on gamesty, joined post, dot ist with Kusta (Newbury 1m6), 66-Fm).

EALLYMAKSEL/h; Prominent, led over 4 aut, ran on gamesty, joined post, dot ist with Kusta (Newbury 1m6), 66-Fm).

EXELTER GYFTSth. Good headway two aut, led Inside fines furlang, best Shoer Darting 19 (Ascot 1m 4), Gd).

Channel 4 3.35 OLIVIER DOUBLE HELBORIAL RAYED STAKES HANDICAP SI 08,967 221-203 REPRETORY (187) (IV) M Chemica 3-8-3 3-11000 RECHEMENT ESCAPE (80) (IV) C Well 3-8-12 214 SARRIERE (14) (IV) (EF) Sared bis Survi 3-8-12 512000 ROWDEN ROSE (20) (IV) M Blamshard 4-8-12

	000548	KINNUCU (14) (D) Baron 3-6-11	
7	040800	THAT MAN AGAIN (20) (D) S Williams 4-1-11 T Quing 0	
	005000	DOUBLE QUICK (20) (CE) M Johnson 4-5-11	20
ē	583300	MAJO FOR THE HELLS (16) (C) D Loder 3-6-10	20
0	300400	TEDBURROW (7) (CO) Mrs A Naughton 4-1-5 Culture	4
•	Q13310	PORTELLET (7) (D) R Guest 4-8-4	(前) 整生
	22 1220] BIR REPGERAC (7) (C) (D) B Palking 6-6-7 T Sprake 1	ġ .
3	100050	TWICE AS SHARP (21) (D) P Harris 4-1-7	
4	335003	SIR JOEY (7) (0) P Murchy 7-8-7	1
5 6 7	444300	D LACO DI VARANO (7) (D) R Whiteler 4-6-7	-
	20005Z	ANSELLMAN (14) (CD) J Borry 6-8-7	7×
7	321000) SEA-DEER (13) (CD) C Dwyar 7-8-7	
		CHOFTERS CENLIDH (14) (D) B McMarton 4-8-7 & Sanders	
9	304204	ZIOGY'S DANCER (15) (D) E Alsian 5-8-7 K Pallon 14	
9	010200	YOUDONTSAY (35) (D) T Naughton 4-5-7	ŋ 6
ſ	000050	7AKADOU (7) (CD) Misa L Siddan 5-8-7	
	006210) SWYNFORD DREAM (7) (CD) J Secentley 3-4-7	
3	0-05300	WILLOW DALE (119) (D) D Elsworth 3-8-7	/2
PR	AND THE	5: Holshei S, Sir Joey 7, Wir Burgurau 6	
-	- D 1 Del	labor 7 C life December 8 4 6% Labor Rebestel 6-1 Asserberg 19-4 States	at Planter

Setting: 6-1 Bolshai, 7-1 Mr Bergerac, 6-1 Str Jany, Sahosei, 9-1 Ansetz Cellidi, 14-1 Wilow Date, Saa-Deer, Ziggy's Dancer PORMS ONDE - SET JOETY Ren on well final harlong, 20 and of 17 behind Taddon, with BOLSHOT (gave 14th), but clear run over it out, good headway final furiong, 22 away 48%, SWYNFORD DEEAM, LAGO DI VARANO, PORTILET IN mear (Asco) 51 GO.

IRT SETEMBERAC: Mid-division, soon driven plang, largi ou. 48% 87% of 2 bits Bollin Joenste Fronk 8s, did, anterillable Riddon over it out, he impression, 52% and of 7 to Taddon, with CROPTERS CRU, DM (not 58s) 44 4489 yard, SAMEELL further 18f 4th & TAKADOU Sth (Havdock 55, SR)

4.15 DURAS CRAMPION STAKES (Green 1) Im 2f C174.126 12-2051 EVEN TOP (44) (C) M Tomplins 3-8-17 1/2443 GLORY OF DANCER (35) (D) P Kelseway 3-8-11 11-112 BOSRA SHAM (31) (C) H Cecli 3-8-8 TOP FORM TIPS: Hading 10, Sopra \$ham 7

Bettings 10-11 Helling, 9-4 Bosra Shart, 5-1 Timeride, 14-1 First Island, 16-1 Even Top, 53-1 Glory Of PORMI GERBE - RALLING Made oil, quistered 2 out, ran on strongly to beat FIRST (SLAND (levels) by 3 POTENT SEASON - CONSECUTION OF THE CONTROL OF THE C

Channel 4 4.45 BEDFORD LODGE HOTEL BESTERICK STAKES OF \$12.254 15 BEDFORD LODGE HOTEL BENTHECK STAKES OF \$12,26
211620 ATEM (22) (CD) D Morley 3-6-1
115150 PASSION FOR LIPE (1:06) (CD) G Lovis 3-6-1
115150 PASSION FOR LIPE (1:06) (CD) G Lovis 3-6-1
6-1000 AVERTI (2:1) (D) W Mair 5-6-12
2020 O STRUGGLER (1:3) (D) D Loder 4-6-12
2020 O STRUGGLER (1:3) (D) D Loder 4-6-12
40005 SUCKY LOMBE, (2:1) (D) P Hores 3-6-11
10005 SERSIAN REVIVAL (3:1) (D) P Hores 3-6-11
110005 SERSIAN REVIVAL (3:1) (D) B Seed has Surgor 3-6-11
110005 SERSIAN REVIVAL (3:1) (D) B Hores 10-1-1
110001 SERSIAN REVIVAL (3:1) (D) B Hores 10-1-1
11001 SERSIAN REVIVAL (3:1) (D) B Hores 10-1-1
11001 SERSIAN REVIX (1:1) (D) B HORES 10-1
11001 SERSIAN REVIX (1:1) (D) B HORES 10-1
11001 SERSIAN REVIX (1:1) (D) B HORES 10-1

TOP FORM TIPS: Easy Option 8, Royale Figuries 7, Lucky Liesel 6 PORSI GUIDEL - BASY OPTIONS Headway hallway, not clear run 11 gut, finished well, 29 Ath of 10 behind Kistena, with STRUCGLER (gove 30), another 18 army 7th (Logothern) 51, Gd-63). BRAKESTON ABERTY Headway 21 gut, led close horte, wen by head from Macard (Munich (8 110), SN). ROYALE PEGURISHIS One pace final turiong, 38 Set of 17 bitl Tarleo (Ascot 57 Gd). LUCKLY LUCKBEL Not clear run from over 22 gut, lety on 10 Set of 22 gut Offident, with ROYALE PEGURINE in away 8th, SRAINSTON ASSY 18 7th, AVERTY 10th 5 CAPRANTA 11th (Ascot E, Gd-Fm).

	Gd-Fm).	эмжин принц их экое, дооц повимаў изы 21, пал оо ятая, эм эк	or 50 Bausidid Cossessi Briffu
2	Ожа	SPARK PLIKE HANDICAP 71 25,830	
1	014125	LAW COMMISSION (15) (CD) D Elseorth 6-10-0	T Chaige 19
2	602505	WY BEST VALENTINE (21) (b) J Yhda 6-9-13	S Droume (3) 3
3	Q-01458	WELTON ARSENAL (9) (D) M Channon 4-9-11	. R Haghes 11
4	110502	SASSEDO (15) (CD) W O'Gorman 6-0-8	Emmi O'German 21
	6061BG	SEROMERRIAL (7) G Harmond 4.0.8	A Clark 15
6	11-3022	WARRING TRANSS (7) (D) M Prescent J-8-8	5 Sandara 13
7	0-03008	WILD RICH (37) (D) G Wragg 4-9-7	
8	D43-504	DELTA SOLEIL (147) P Harris 4-9-7	G RPad 18
•	COTZOU	CHICKAWICKA (37) (D) B Paring 5-8-6	_T Sprake 12
5	520000	ROYAL MARK (50) (CD) J Watts 3-8-5	W R Swinburn 2*
•	HUTCUT	MY GALLERY (14) (D) A Bailey 5-8-6	_D Wright (8) 10
•	30000	GYMCRAK PREMIERE (10) (D) G Holmes 8-8-13	K Fallon 8+
i	021121	CHARLE SELECT (13) (D) B Hits 4-8-13	. C Hother 5
•	221130	LOUGH ERRE (13) C Wall 4-8-11	_# #### 1
:	22 IVE	EROCICHTONS TURNOIL (14) (CD) (BF) W MUSSON 7-8-10	B Doyle 9
•	05324	KHORDLEDHEZE (7) (D) M Channon 6-8-7	A Eastery (7) 4+
	0032	COMMERCIAL DENGTH (etc. on Charles and C. C.	L Detter 20
	44177	COLTAGEOUS DANCER (22) (0) 8 Harbury 4-8-7	w xyjess tj
2	1331	CASTAM (10) (0) J Duniop 3-8-4	_P2X EAStery 18
-	200000	SHE'S MY LOVE (56) J Bents 3-8-1	_ J Guina 17
•	V14232	FLYING PERMANT (193) (D) R Harmon 3-5-1	. Dame C'Hight 14
	4510222	AMERICA PORT (15) (D) D Eleworth 3-8-0	. E Henry (2) 22#
P	184 189	: Warming Transis 8, Broughtons Turnsofi 7, Mazzanotta 6	

Catterick runners and riders

3.15	Gipsy Princess	4.55 Enchantic	
		5.30 Misrais	
	Lan best in spring. Ordey	Consi. o Conseig Michiga.	
	A		
1	62232) FRUTTANA (14) J		
3	5 EYDE PARK (14)	M Prescott 9-0	Q Duffield 18
4	4 TURTLE MOON (4	47) M Tomphine 6-0	
ė	S ALVELDE (25) J F	anshawe 8-9	G Familioner (8) 1
ş	ON PLOOD'S NOT ST	UPF (11) 4 Chemon 6-9	Perhan 7
	40 HEVER GOLF Ma	VER (38) T Naucoton 6-0	
•	00 LA DOLCE VITA (30) T Barron 8-4	J Ferring 12
16 11	06 LIGHTHING BOLT	(20) 54 Johnston 6-9	T Williams 9
12	OR SOMETHING BLI	(14) R (2010 BRISIO 8-1)	Carroll 6
13	20: SYLVAN DANCER	(42) C Wall 5-6	
14	68 WALTZ TIME (20)	Mas L Perratt 8-0	A McClose 3
itetie	ORM TAPS: Freehann S, Ryde	Park 7, Major 0 , 6–1 Máyan Queen, Fruitana, 7–1 S	about Dancer B. 1 Shelida O. 1
امواوئا	ing Bolt.		14 redokty
2.4	Δ		
	U PLODMINE WOOD APPE	RENTICE CLAIMING STAKES 1m 4	f C2,63 7
1	214042 BREAK THE RULI	ES (13) (D) Mrs M Reveloy 4-9-7	
=	DENOIS PETOSICAL (16) J	Pearce 4-9-2	
4	111305 PHARLY DANCES	(11) (CD) W Heigh 7-1-0	Newton #
•	845001 CROSS TALK (2.8)	(C) N Tinkler 4-8-12	
Ť	1-64046 DANA PODIT (14	25 (13) (27) ANT M HAVENY 2-5-1 Wyer 7-6-2 Pearce 4-9-2 (111) (CO) W Hope 1-6-0 (27) N Trinkler 4-8-12 B) C Murray 4-8-11	Websile Andelse (%)
-			
	Q SROJA (EE) Mrs V	Acontey 3-8-5	Contract Contract Con-
	800000 KASHAMA (GE) W	Storey 4-8-4	10 kee Band- 4% 484
10	428-056 SALTY CARL (120	(SEP) B Hills 3-8-4	Derren Moffatt 9
11	(AND PRESENTED POL)	KA (21) J Parkes 4-5-3	A Dely 13
13	60 KAYES SECRET	\$ (21) Fanes 4-8-3 (A27) B Hills 3-8-4 (A (21) Fanes 4-8-3 (A (21)	P Foosev II
TOP P	ORM TIPS: Break The Rales	B, Planty Dancer 7, Salty Girl 6	
9.1 P	g: 7-2 Break The Rules, 9-2 Se Inkerton Police.	ty Girl, Pharty Dancer, 5-1 Petoginn, 1	1-2 Dane Point 6-1 Cross Tells,
			13 respera
3.1	5 NO POODS MURSERY H	ANDICAP 2YO 71 C3,574	
1	100 THE IN-LAWS (20	(D) N Prescott 9-7	© Doffield 7
*	24351 MPULSTF (17) (D)	Divench Davis 9-4	G Parkin (5) 16
3	330420 GHATE TREES (6) 14451 MEEROR FOUR LE	(CD) E Weynes 9-1	il Rhoper 0
ě	0030 CLOSETROTTER	(12) M Johnston 8-7	7 Value (6) 14
7	500) DENTON LAD (46)	/ Watts 6-6	Concerton 5
í	62500 TORONTO (14) J C	Serv 8-4	2 Carrell 111
9	346312 GIPSY PRINCESS	(9) (CD) M W Easterby 8-3	A McClery 15
10 11	324651 TRIBAL MISCHIEF	(53) D Mo#at: 8-2	Darren Motiati (3) 2
12	0050 KING UNO (12) Ja	ARDICAP 270 71 C3,574 (i) Di wench Devis 9-4 (i) Di wench Devis 9-4 (iCD) E Weymes 9-1 (iCD) E Weymes 9-1 (iZ) M Lotreson 8-7 (iZ) M Lotreson 8-7 (iZ) M Lotreson 8-7 (iZ) M Sessen 8-7 (iZ) M W Easterby 8-3 (iZ) M W Easterby 8-3 (iZ) M W Easterby 8-3 (iZ) M W Easterby 8-7 (iZ) M W East	P Northe 6
13	0008 SEA MIST (17) P (happle-Hyam ?-13	
14	54430 ARSTONE OLDER	(49) (CD) D Forms 7-11	12
15	451521 CONTRAVENE (28	(D) J Berry 7-10	B Feasew (5) 13
16 MB R	(14) 등 (199) 및 1990년 (199) 	(12) (CD) P Evans 7-11 (1) (D) J Berry 7-10 (7-10 Princess 7, Abstone Queen 6	
Petting		Princess 7, Abstone Green 6 of Mischiel 11-2 impulsil, 6-1 Mirror	
Zorba,	10-1 Sea Mest		16 remore
3_5	O CROW HOLE BANK HAN		
1	2000 COACE THE DOWN	DICAP SF C4,110	
2	100500 PREDS OF BRIDE	DICAP ST C4,110 ER (13) (D) Dictobig 3-10-0 III (24) (D) G Lewis 3-8-12 III (17) (D) I Marginon 3-9-11 III (17) (D) I Marginon 3-9-11 III (17) (CID) Mirs J Ramaden 5-9-7 III (D) J Berry 5-9-5 III (D) D Mortan 3-9-5 III (13) (CID) C Drayer 5-9-5 J-9-4 III (13) (CID) C Drayer 5-9-5 J-9-4 III (7) (CID) J Berry 5-9-3	K Darky 14
3	500000 EASTERN PROPH	BTS (17) (D) T Naugation 3-8-11	woowerth 16
6	MANUAL PRESIDER TRADER	(10) (CD) Mrs J Ramaden 5-9-7	J Forbins 1
6	008000 LADY SHOREF (7	in) (B) J Berry B-(I-5	P Roberts (5) 2
8	6-8150 PRECIOUS CORL (4	(3) (D) D Moftett 3-0-5	
9	452430 SIHAP (646) J Carr	क (14) (CO) C Dwysr 5-0-5 3-9-4	
10	123106 PALACEDATE TOL	3-9-4	P February 13
11 12	24DIE SPENDER (32) (D)	DCB (7) (CD) J Berry 6-8-3 P Harris 7-8-3 3) (CD) T Easterby 4-8-3 ster 7-8-12 SY (2) (D) M Wans 4-9-11 (10) C) S Bowring 5-8-9 20) N Tirides 3-8-6 7) (D) M W Esstarby 4-8-3 P Except 4-7-13 0) (D) R Whitakar 4-12 (11) (2) D) HW J Berry 6-13-13	
13	400030 BAYIN (7) (D) M L	o) (UI) T Essenty 4-8-3	
14 15	212300 SWAR AT WHALL	Y (2) (0) M Wans 4-8-11	
16	225000 GOSETEKS (17) (C	(10) (D) S Bowring 5-8-9	C Teeque (3) 3*
17	342016 ABLE SHERRET (17	7) (D) M W Easterby 4-8-3	A McCle 4-
18 19	20000 SEE COTTAGE :-	P Evacs 4-7-13	F Egrac 9
20	05000 BRANSTON DAIM	P 14505 413 0) (D) R Whiteler 4-7-12 I (12) (D) Mrs J Remoden 3-7-12 We Shariff 7, Spender 6	F Horton 6+
UP P(MM TER: Lady Short! 5, Ab	Ne Sheriff 7, Spender 6	J Panning 20
0-1 in	p o-1 More Snerni, 7-1 Palaceg sider Trader.	see Touch, Lady Sheritt, 8-1 Spender	. I DECEM DEEM, Charletelf Hall.
			20 Rampra
+.2	O THREVES CITY LIMITED &	TAKES 1m St 175yds £2,910	
1 2	10008 EARLY PEACE (12	1 Maries 1 m in 1 7 Psych 52,910) M Polgiage 4-9-6 Mrs 6 Smith 4-9-6 Mrs 6 Smith 4-9-6 ESS (14) P Harris 4-9-4 ESS (14) P Harris 4-9-1 L Maria 7-9-3 17) M Channon 3-9-8 If (15) Mrs 4 King 3-8-9	
3	SOTI-OF DESPOY BY (66)	POS SIZE II Security 5 5 4	C Peers (3) 6
4	GO-4 EXPANSIVE RUNG	EER (14) P Harris, 4-8-4	III Deering 11
5	120KIS CHILDREN'S CHO	GE (11) (D) C Allen 5-9-3	D Deploy (7) 4
ş	(54530 POREVER MOSE = 4	17) M Changer 1-8.0	TWEELERS 8
8	0-04006 MAY KING MAYNE	177 M Channon 3-8-8 alt (12) Mrs A King 3-8-9 C Thornton 3-8-8 Thornton 3-8-8 T Lord Hautingdon 3-8-6	Firms 2
•	21284 LOS ALAMOS (BS)	C Thornton 3-8-8	D McKe +
10 11	302233 6855 PRISE (10) (3F) J Dunlop 3-8-6	K Darity 1
12	4003 SILVRETTA (20) A	Stewart 3-8-4	
0P P0	HAR TIPS: Sametto 8, Childre	er's Chalco 7, North Bear 6	
وملااه	r 4–1 Silvrelta, 5–1 Reploy, 6–1 1–1 lota	Los Alamos. 13-2 North Bear, 7-1 Cl	nidenn a Choice :

4.5	5 SOUR BUCK CONDITIONS STAKES SYO OF CA,002		
1	PED MARYLEBONE (1) J Barry 8-11		
	0006 SWIFT (16) M Polgiesse 8-1T		er i
3	31034 KEEN TO PLEASE (1) (D) Donys Smith 8-10		
- 4	216 TAZIRAH (99) (D) D MoRatt #-10	Director	Morrold (2)
	4234 ENCHANTICA (98) J Berry 8-8	K Darje	y3 .
•	00 OMENORETIME (31) B Nurrey 8-6	V Malija	ing 6
TOP !	OMI TIPE: Marylebone 8, Enchantics 7,		
Beitle	gr 9-4 Marylebone, 11-4 Encharation, 7-2 Keen To Please, Tazibari, 8-1	Gartt.	6 may 2
5.3	O CLOSE OF PLAY HARDICAP 7/ ES,860		
- 1	220-630 GODMERSHAN PARK (17) M Hoston-Bile 4-10-0	2 2 24-	mbs (8) 17:
2	### PARLAMENT PRICE (10) (D) Capt J Wilson 10-8-13	مينوانا السيري	CONTRACT
	652051 MISROLE (17) J Gosden 3-9-13	Carro	10
4	808002 CLASSY CHEEF (16) R Bobs 3-9-12		ner (II) 14
	GUESTO COMANCHE COMPANION (7) (d); T Nauchion 6-8-12	O Urbin	- 12
	50000 FAME AGAIN (?) (b) Mrs J Ramsden 4-0-10	Winds	- 9
7	401620 SUPERPRINE (?) (D) Mrs M Reveley 4-9-9	T WILL	- 10
	001020 Lythiost ZEAL (22) (0) (RE) P Harris 5-8-8	A Mette	
	000140 DANCING SIOUX (14) (D) D Nicitalis 4-9-5	Alex Or	ament 2
10	036050 STACKATTACK (17) P Webber 3-9-4	ii Parte	ca. 0
11	158000 ENCORE WYLADY (5) (3) F Lae 5-8-8	L Money	-017
12	341300 MY GODSON (34) (CD) J Byre 8-8-2	- I Best	- (7) tên
18	36046 ALLSISON'S MATE (64) (C) (D) (DF) T Barron 8-8-2	Ylotate	Amelia (1
		Al . b.	
14	194046 CRAIGHAEN (22) J Byrn 3-9-1	أودوعا السيب	14±
15	"UNDER STATESTRUMENT [4] (C) John Berry 4-9-1	IK Fants	on 915-b
16	405010 HAUGRTY PISTOL (22) P Franc 4-8-11		- C-4-
17			
18	W-USD SMARP TO SHADY (92) C Wall 3_A_13	O Toronto.	44.0
10	12 (CCF CINALIDARIA SIASIGI (2017) (D) . I Flores 9.4.13	N Paris	
20	10002 NEGAL FAREFARE (28) N/B L Shibbs 4-8-13	do Hage	mm(7) 101
TOP P	ORM TSPS: Classy Chief 8, Allegon's Mate 7, Ubnost Zool 8		
Bettle	E 5-1 Classy Chief 6-1 Commonte Communical 1962 Board Evaluating	-1 Misrola, Al	Umon's Mid
Desert	Invader, 8-1 Statistician, 12-1 Utmost Zael		20 resid
- 7	National Court of the Court of		
● B	linkered for the first time — CATTERIC	K: 2.05 F	ruitana
7 .15	Kachana 5 20 Cadmanahan Water	-	

Ashana; 5.30 Godmersham Park KELSO: 2.00 helm; 4.10 Field Of Vision; Nonios. NEWMARKET: 1.45 of Song, Cool Fire, Easy Jet. WOLVERHAMPTON: 7.00 reens. 9.30 Red Rusty.

ults

, SQUEAK, L Dettori (2-5 tav); Fortune (7-2), 3, Kristopher , 8, (J Gosden) Tota: £1.40, Dual

#FOONLIGHT PARADISE, I. lavi. 2, Dezzle (2-1): 3, Se-6 ran. 25, 1% (Saeed bin 52.40; £1.20, £1.30, Dual F-20.

rla Appleby (?)	TOP FORM T
i) Seriolor (7)	Betting: 5-1 i Desert invade
Wands (3) 12w on Moffatt 9 by 13 wther (7) 8 usey 5 N. 6-1 Cross Telk, 13 resours	Blink 2.40 Ka Overwh Blaze Of Smither
ffield 7 rkin (5) 16 moor 8 Moor (5) 14	Res
minor 9 situar (5) 14 Stress 1 morton 5 mol 10 rky 15 dition 3* mil file (3) 2 rlor 6 aring 11 dy-Boetcher (7)	NEWISA 1.30 (7f): 1 2, Flowing (7–1) 3 ran, 6 F: \$1.50, C\$1 2.00 (6f): 1
gim 4± Wey (5) 12 tel: 5	2.00 (6f): 1 (33-1): 2, MB (7-1): 11-4: 1 13: (A Stew 2.20. Dual 2524.60. 2.35 (1a: (9-2): 2, MB [av] 10 ran.: 2.100. (2.00 2.45.40. CSF
16 rumers rby 14 Beeth 16 dua 18	246.40, C2.00 £46.40, C3F 3.05 (77): 1 Dattori (11- remity (8-1 Surger) Tot
Table 1 Natio (5) 2 Ich (3) 17 Catt (3) 10-k roff 12 Sear 13 Say (5) 19-k	21.90, CSF: 1 3.40 (77): 1 2, Mestest 1 (50-1): 7-2 ji 8 rsn. Hd. n £2.30, £4.70. 4.18 (1m):
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A. KADEEMA, T Williams (10-1), I (15-6 fav): 3, Bounds Lapale ran. 1% hd. (M Johnston) Tote: 30, IT.10, IZ-260, Dual F: 17.60, IC.36: IZ-26, Dual F: 17.60, IS-36: IZ-36:

Brisbourne) Tota: E7.80, £1.80, £1.50, £1.50.
Dual F. £27.90, CSF; £51.31, Tricast: £382.87,
3.80 (67); *1, AL BRIALLER, A McGlone
(6-4); *1, 40; *2, Broaden (5-4); *3, Lamber
Boy (20-1), 8-4, 4va Pateler d'Amour. 9 ran.
\$1.14, (1) Paynel Tota: £2.40, £2.00, £1.00,
23.30, Dual F. £8.80, Trice £7.40, £2.60, £1.80,
4.25 (5m 46); *1, LAAZEM APOCK, R Perhom (11-4); *1-4 | +-1ev Soldier Mak.
15 ran. 18, ½; (R Phillips) Tota: £4.60, £1.80,
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£5.90, £3.10, Dual F. £30.10, Trice £406.40,
£5.90 (4m 47); *2, Altandekarano (7-1); *3,
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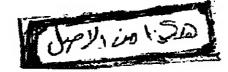
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HEREFORD

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1.80 (2nn 1f Höhn) 1. SOUNDS LEKE
FUR, J. Titley (1-2 ke/); 2. Seven Wells
(3-1); 3. Chief Gaie (5-2). 4 ran. 26. 25.
(Auss H. Knight) Tote C1.40. Dual F: 25.50.
CSF: 24.55.
2.20 (2nn 1f 11 Oyda Chie 1. SOME CAV
SOON, P. Holley (11-8 ke/); 2. Paper Star
(7-1); 3. Fougarier (11-1), 5 ran. 20. 11. (M
Brackstock) Tote: 22.30; 21.10; 23.10. Dual F:
24.50. CSF: 210.11.
2.65 (22nn Ca): 1, SUBLIME FELLOW, M A
Fitgereid (2-5 kay); 2. Meet Court (3-4);
3. SM of Rights (60-1) 4 ran. Dist, dist, (M
Handerson) Tote: E1.50, Dual F: 21.50. CSF:
1.38.

2.26 (3m 22 Hidde): 1, HURCHERS ROCK, C O'Deyer (7-4 fay); 2, Gepar Coll (11-2); 3, Histor Binkle (5-1); 6 ren. 26, 11, (8 Billey) Tote: (2.50; 51.10, 51.10, 51.50, Dual F: 57.30, CSF CT.13. 4.00 (2m 3f Chi 1, WARLOVAC, A Ma-guiro (7-2); 2, Filmo's Binkley (4-1); 3, Figure Rum (6-1), 10-11 tov Martins is Deughter; 5 fan. 7, 18, (F Lea) Tote: (4.80; 23.70, (22.90, Dual F: 511.40, CSF 21.577, 4.35 (2m 3f 110yda): 1, BORGH TO PLEASE, A F MCCO; (3-1); 2, Corris Hill (3-1); 3, Christe Glen (4-1), 5-2 tay Re Rol, 5 ran. 6, 20, (P Hobols) Tote: (2.50; 52.20, 51.10, Dual F: (53.30, CSF; 511.91, PLACEPOTI 558.10, CMLADPOTI 518.20. Tote Trio punters on loday's 3.0 at Naw-market start with £3.327 in the kitty from yesterday's races.



Saturday October h Tennis Henma on new high

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No way through . . . Matthew Ridge is stopped short by Great Britain's Paul Broadbent and Terry O'Connor during yesterday's match in Auckland

First Rugby League Test: New Zealand 17, Great Britain 12

Kiwis capitalise as Morley sins

Andy Wilson in Auckland

DRIAN MORLEY WIII never forget his first, brief taste of Test football. The 19-yearold Leeds forward was sin-binned by the Australian referee Bill Harrigan within moments of coming on as a late substitute and in the remaining nine minutes the centre John Timu scored two tries which gave New Zealand a scarcely deserved win. Great Britain had con-

trolled the first 50 minutes to establish a 12-2 lead and had then defended magnificently to restrict the Kiwis to a second Matthew Ridge penalty. But the loss of Morley, which followed a head injury to the full-back Stuart Spruce and an enforced reshufile of

the back-line defence, left the | longer. Kris Radlinski, who | cover defence but Barnett | and Christchurch confident capitalised ruthlessly.
The Lions felt, with some

justification, that Morley's punishment was harsh. The captain Andy Farrell said: "It was disappointing that the referee had to send someone. to the bin for holding down at such a late stage, because everybody had been doing it all the game."

Britain's coach Phil Larder, feeling that Harrigan was allowing defenders to delay tackles more than has become the norm in England, told his players at half-time to exploit the official's generosity to prevent the Kiwis "getting on

The plan worked until the last half-hour when New Zealand forced the visiting de-fenders to hold on longer and

tourists exposed and Timu switched from centre to fullback when Spruce was in-jured, was penalised for hold-ing down the scrum-half Stacey Jones and Ridge kicked his second goal to reduce the deficit to eight points. But the real penalty came when Morley was binned for a repeat offence.

Great Britain's problems had started with a Bobble Goulding cross-kick to the right wing in the 54th minute. The move had already pro-duced the Lions first try when Alan Hunte rose above Richard Barnett but it was a high-risk strategy against the latter, who has represented New Zealand at basketball.

215224 DALLY BOY (191) T Easterby 4-11-1 --

stepped over his tackle. Although Barnett was eventualy stopped, Spruce was forced off with a gashed face, forcing Larder to switch Radlinski and introduce the Shellleld youngster Keith Senior at centre. The defence never looked secure again,

Within a minute of Morley going to the sin-bin, Gene Ngamu threw a long pass to Timu who stepped inside Senior and crashed through Radlinski's tackle to score. In New Zealand's next raid the prop Grant Young released the ball to Ngamu who gave Timu the space to score again. Ridge converted both tries and added a 40-yard drop

When he was tested by goal in injury time.
Goulding again he outjumped Hunte and saw a clear field ahead. Spruce went low in Tests in Palmerston North

Rugby Union

A spot of Welsh dog in the Harlequin pack

SENTIMENT will not blun the edge of Gareth Liewellyn's ironclad commitment when the 6ft 6in Harlequins lock confronts his old mates from Neath in a game at The Stoop that could spell the end of the Welsh club's interest in

the Heineken European Cup. Win bonuses of £1,250 per man per game explain why he moved from The Gnoll. Liewellyn, whose 50 appear ances for Wales make him the most capped lock in their history, was targeted by Quins' director of rugby Dick Best as the kind of streetwise senior pro to put "dog" into an outfit who used to be widely regarded as a soft touch When Quins were struggling to beat a fiery Ulster side in Belfast this week, the skipper Jason Leonard was clearly relieved to have him in the engine room.

Since playing his first Test against New Zealand seven years ago, Llewellyn has be-come a more ruthless performer, adding mental hardness to his athletic line-out skills and prodigious appetite for work around the park However, the former Wales skipper also likes now to entertain as well as to win matches, an ambition he started to fulfil with Neath last season when they scored a record number of tries on their way to the Heineken

League title.
"It will be a bit strange competing against close friends with whom I achieved a great deal in Welsh rugby," Liewellyn reflects. "I was partly responsible for bring-ing Lyn Jones to The Gnoll as coach and he proved to be one of the most creative people I ever worked with. Lyn used to say, 'It's not stupid to make mistakes, just stupid to keep on repeating them. His inno-vative ideas helped our very young side win the league

in their ability to pull level

after a first-half performance

in which the Sheffield prop

Paul Broadbent led some

magnificent forward effort

and Betts was an inspiration.

He deservedly scored the

second try after fine handling by Goulding and the substi-

Kempton (N.H.)

2.15 PERT BOAT HANDIGUP CHARE 24 C4,351

2.50 REVERDALE HOWICE HURBLE 340 2m CE,015

3.20 CAPTAIN OURST HURDLE 2m \$4,766

7.00 Mapler Star 7,30 Communder Jones 8,00 Walk The Beat

Bettings 3-1 Squire s Occasion, 7-2 A Chef Too Far. 9-2 Classic Defence, Tarry, 5-1 Typhon Premier Generation, 19-1 Susiny Secure

Betting: 5-4 Capton Kherjeg, 7-4 Super Tactics, 2-1 Clay Courty, 12-1 Lagues.

tute Chris Joynt.

3,20 Warm Spell

within two seasons." Llewellyn established his reputation at the end of the Eighties as a relentless exponent of the nine-man game conceived by Brian Thomas and spearheaded by Kevin Phillips, a man whose middle

HEW ZEALAND (Auch) and Warriors unloss stated Ridge; Hoppe, Blackmore, Tipus (Cardarbury) Sarmett (Cronuta) Nganes, Genes Yeung, Ere, Pongis (Carberra), tre (Humre Manners), Kaarney, Smith INorth Queensand Cowboys: Schottbuses Mile, Vagans, Wiki (Carberra), Swams. name was "Hwyl".

"I learned a great deal from those men," says Llewellyn.
"We had the strongest pack in Wales and honest backs who did their best, and it was enough to win us the league in the first year of the competition." Liewellyn was Weish Player of the Year in 1989.



Llewellyn . . . iron-clad

Robert Armstrona on Gareth Llewellyn, who tackles his old club Neath today

His desire to play in the forthcoming internationals against Australia and South Africa keeps him bombing up and down the M4 to keep faith with regular Welsh souad sessions in Cardiff. "I can handle all the training sessions with club and country," he says, "and I work out with weights too without suffering from fatigue, but all that driving does take a bit out of me. Since I gave up my job as a British Steel fitter in Port Talbot last July I've been trying to learn how to use the extra time to best advantage, but sometimes the day goes by in a flash. I haven't played golf

at Richmond yet. Still, Llewellyn knows that

Offiah clear for Bedford debut

MARTIN OFFIAH will "Brive have already beaten Neath, so they must be a strong side," says Llewellyn loyally. "I know they've been getting information and advice on how to play British teams from Nick Farr-Jones, might rule him out for the season. 'I feel sharp and ready," the wing said after two fitness tests.

Delight for Bedford was empered when the employment department placed a temporary ban on the former Australian league player Mike Pechey.

professionalism, which has tract, could not have arrived at a better time, given that his best years have yet to come, not to mention the 1999 World Cup in Wales. The fact that he now literally rubs shoulders with some of the best players in Europe — Cabannes, Wood and Carling, for example — can only stimulate his own highly focused pursuit of

"It was an odd experience to jump straight from the close-knit atmosphere of Neath into a London club that had recruited so many good players from other countries," admits Liewellyn. "We took time to go a countries," admits Liewellyn." took time to get acquainted but we've managed nine wins but we've managed nine wins from nine games and I believe the best is yet to come from Harlequins. We're an adapt-able bunch of players and, de-spite the different nationalities, we don't have a language problem. Cabannes speaks fantastic English and the prop Benezech has very

good pidgin English. "I already knew Jason Leonard from way back be-cause my brother Glyn, who went to the North London Poly, used to play for Barking when Jason was in the side. Later on Jason stayed at our home in Wales after playing in internationals in Cardin."

Llewellyn has swiftly be-come accustomed to the lower decibel count at The Stoop. which is a world away from the rancous intimacy of The Gnoll. The fans here are definitely different, more upper crust," he says, "but they've been great so far."

Success in Europe tops Quins' list of priorities, closely followed by a desire to win their first league title. Liewellyn's expertise will be invaluable when the path gets bumpler in mid-winter. First there is the threat of Neath. followed by a difficult trip to Brive, runners-up in last sea-son's French championship.

teams from Nick Farr-Jones, who sends them faxes from his office in Paris. Still, we'll be getting the low-down on Brive from Cabannes, who played against them with his old club [Racing Club de Paris]. That's another advantage of having players from different parts of the world."

Stratford National Hunt programme

5.05 Nir Strong Cole 5.40 Name Of Oak 2.25 SHOTTERY MEADOW LADY RIDERS' HAMDICAP HURDLE 2- 110/4-12/44 | Series | Control | Contr Rettings 5-7 Sen Diego Charger, 3-1 Pair Of Jacks, 5-1 Floros, Pagestus Bay, 7-1 Zingiber, 8-1 We 20-1 Sizone's Sen, Guck, Decision 55 RICHARDSONS SELLING BURDLE Int 1 10yds C2,566

0400-PP SANDRO (33) Mess I. Bower 7-13-5

345597- CRAPBE OF BARRAS (8) (9) 8 Gee 7-11-12

351PS SMALIK (16) J. Lenking 6-11-5

01 SKRITTLECSCK (18) Mrs N Maccadey 5-11-5

020-P-7 STRICE THE GROOM (37) (703) R Lee 5-11-5

(0704-5 AWASTERICCK (9) B Preced 6-10-12

CISTO MATTA REVER (28) P Dation 6-10-12

USFF- MORREY'S WEEDOING (179) H Kaveragh 5-10-12

USFF- MORREY'S WEEDOING (179) H Kaveragh 5-10-12

24/9513- THENTOON PRICE (145) K CHURTHOCK 7-10-12

24/9513- THENTOON PRICE (145) K CHURTHOCK 7-10-12

25/1-2 MANSER SLOAME (280) A Greene 4-10-11

43 SCRISKY (280) B Gabby 4-10-11

45 STI-S WEST VERN (81) J WHEN 7-10-7

JF PYTCHLEY DAWN (140) O C'Noll 6-10-7

JF PYTCHLEY DAWN (140) O C'Noll 6-10-7 2.55 RICHARDSONS SELLING HURDLE Des 1 10yes 12,556 ...Sy P Gen ... M T Agaire ... A Magaire ... L Harvoy & ... G Hogan (3) * ... T May ... W Marston 3.25

1 :	9716/42- RAFTIERS (387) J Bradley 7-10-10	J Murahy
1 7		Wynne
Setti Patte	ings 5–2 Make A Stand, 7–2 Staney Valley, 9–2 Delly Boy, 5–1 Roegan-Sque 6–1 i ra, 25–1 Saymere ———————————————————————————————————	Berturd Sovereign, 5-1 7 remocre
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1 3	131221 - LARRY'S LORD (193) (D) P Nichola 7-10-11	TRee (W)
	F21-13- CONTAIN ANGLE (14) (CD) P Popps 7-10-5	
1 5	SP-121F COMEDY ROAD (14) (D) R Lee 12-10-0	Johnson
- Section	ngs 5-2 Garrylough, 3-1 Larry's Lord, 4-7 lifese, Mester Boston, 6-1 Comody Ro	1967, 5-1 Certain Angle S ranners
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1 1	0- S FETY TWO (203) L West 5-11-0	Sattery (7)
1 2	ATTOFAMORUP M Roberts 5-11-0	Powell
1 :	US/UP4P- CAREY'S COTTAGE (222) Mrs P Townsley 6-11-0 1	Harvey K Mallandard
1 :	0056- COSA PILAIR (194) à Betley 6-11-0	Popularies
1 :	EAST DAMED TERMS E 17941 T English E-11-1	Wines.
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1 6	6- LINFORD (216) 7 Forster 6-11-0	Ar R Bendy
1 5	04-3 MINOR REY (8) 1 Jensins 6-11-0	Magnine .
10	9- MR STRONG GALE (238) P Nicholis 5-11-0	Hide
11	2 ROSKERN BRIDGE (63) C Woodon 5-11-0	Rickerds
1 12	46060- TARRIS BREICE (356) C Mann 5-11-0	N Water
1 13	000-0 JAINES JOY (14) Greene Roo 8-10-9	home Grainer (7)
1 12	O-F LILLY THE PILLY (64) Mrs B Waring 5-10-9	Berno
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Fenton banned

PIP PAYNE, the Newmarket trainer, and jockey Michael Fenton were found to be in breach of the non-triers' rule over the running and riding of Kweilo in the Travis Perkins Maiden Stakes at Newmarket yesterday.

Fenton was banned for five the gelding had failed to ob-tain his best possible placing.





Straight man fronting the Crazy Gang

Paul Weaver talks to the striker who has helped Wimbledon to within range of an unlikely spot at the top of the Premiership

be top of the Pre-miership tonight, albeit for 24 hours; the club with no home, no money and fewer supporters than Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, the makedo-and-mend team of Vinnie Jones and his Crazy Gang, grinning from the summit as they look down on Manchester United, Liverpool, New-castle and the rest. Can you

The scenario is not that farfetched. Wimbledon stand fifth this morning and their six successive league wins ing a difficult path through represent their best run in the traditional post-training the Premiership. Now all they dissonance, a cacophony of

MBLEDON could | have to do is beat Chelsea at Stamford Bridge today while

Arsenal lose to Coventry.
Efan Ekoku, who has
scored five times in seven
games, is one of the players most responsible for this club's history. On the first weekend of the

Motor Show Ekoku describes himself rather aptly: "I'm 29 but I'm a low mileage model — and with a full service

Ekoku was speaking in the club's training ground canteen, his quiet articulacy find-

mock brawis, noisy japes, mobile-phone conversations and clattering tea mugs; Vinnie was shouting in one corner but his audience paid him the sort of desultory attentiion experienced by air stewar-desses in the middle of safety

The car analogy is not as

glib as it might sound. The powerful Nigerian forward explained: "I've played in 150 league and cup games and that's not a lot for a player my age. But that should help give me a longer shelf-life. Look at Ian Wright. He came late to big football but now, in his early thirties, is playing some we have more internationals of the best stuff of his career.

"We can win a cup this sea-Walker's attitude was that we son. It would be foolish to were good enough to beat anythink we have a real chance of winning the League. But having said that I was at Norone playing the same way.
"Joe is more inclined to change tactics for different wich when we finished third sides. The other difference beand at Christmas we had a

nine-point lead. We have a tween the two men is that Joe mixes more socially with the bigger squad here. Joe Kinnear said every season that it players. This season our results went badly. But our attitude was right from the word go. We had a lot of fun is his aim to stay up. But if we finish fifth from bottom every year I don't think he would be very happy. We will be disap-Navy base near Plymouth and pointed not to finish some we felt confident ever since. where in the top 10.
"Joe is very honest with his

Ekoku considers himself players. Every day here is one Nigerian, although the vowelbig laugh but we work hard and train very seriously. At Norwich the emphasis was more on skill and ability. sounds owe more to Lanca-shire than Lagos. Like his elder brother Abi, a former United Kingdom discus champion who turned to rugby union, Efan was born in Manchester and grew up in Liver-pool. His father is Nigerian, at Wimbledon than we ever

His team-mates refer to him as "Chief" and he takes it cheerfully. "Paul Miller, the old Spurs player, gave me the nickname after I moved to Bournemouth from Sutton [for £100,000 in 1990]. My father is a traditional chief back in Nigeria.

Ekoku moved to Norwich for £500,000 in 1993 and to Wimbledon two years ago for a little under II million. His first goal for Wimbledon was against Norwich.

The atmosphere at Wimately. It didn't feel like a club near the bottom of the table. The spirit is great and the manager joins the players for a drink and a joke. People are always asking me about this Crazy Gang thing and our secret, but our only secret is we have better players than

Sugar puts a brave face on publicity hitch

Soccer Diary

Martin Thorpe

OW keep a straight face. There was once a product called the It got rid of wrinkles. Un-fortunately it could do nothing about bad luck.

Alan Sugar was reminded of it on Thursday having just seen pictures of his conciliatory handshake with Bosnich knocked off sending-off.

For this face straightener's launch we had the biggest press call I've seen in my life," recalled Sugar. "We had Julia Carling there endorsing the thing, it was going into Boots, we were on a winner.

"So I was laying back later on watching News At Ten waiting for the piece on the launch to come up thinking this thing's going to sell, we've got it made. And there it was: "Will Carling and Julia Carling had started divorce proceedings ...
"And what made it worse

was they illustrated it with pictures of her from our launch with the product totally missing."

DOES THIS offer some il-inmination on the curent England coach's view of refuelling, asks Dave Leggatt of Todmorden? "Chris Waddle, Glenn Hoddle, Kenny Sansom and I have found one bar where you can only have a yard of ale — nothing else. We've been nicknamed the Yard Squad because we pop in at lunchtime and do the business. Last night in the hotel disco, a few of the England lads ran up a drinks bill of 2500." From Mark Hateley Home And Away, on the 1985 tour of Mexico.

SO THERE were Exeter City at Carlisle on Tuesday night, losing 1-0 at half-time. And there was Uri Geller sitting hundreds of miles away watching Reading v Manchester City when he heard the plight of his son Daniel's favourite team. So he did what any

parent would do He rang his friend lyor Doble, the Exeter chairman, on his mobile phone and said:

Brill Els P off g esca

ways got to the ball.

N 1972 he stated categori-cally in Hunter Davies' classic The Glory Game: "I don't want to become a manager. I'd end up in the loony bin." Barnet's new manager, Alan Mullery.

APPARENTLY Arsenal chant: "One Tony have only one Tony Ad-ams." (From Mary Taylor of Macclesfield Forest.)

lost the last election.

Roy Hattersley wrote a HANK goodness Labour piece for a national paper last week heaping fulsome praise on Martin Tyler for professionally filling 60 prime-time minutes while the bomb scare was sorted out at the recent England Under-21 international. "Tyler cuts through the claptrap", read the head-line. Er, it was actually Alan Parry.

LESSANDRO Verone A LESSANDRO Veronese was sent off last week-end during an Italian amateur game for Battaglia. But before he walked he kissed the referee on both cheeks. On Friday he was banned for one game for being sent off and got an-other for the kisses. The

referee was a woman.
Typically Italian, just
like Pierpaolo Curti, a
promising Serie C striker who is quitting full-time soccer. 'I have achieved my lifetime's ambition to play as a professional but it has been a rude awakening," he said. "I realised that a part of me had been wiped out. Too much soccer was stifling my creativity as a painter."

APPARENTLY Mark Bosnich was confused. asked him to do fewer

Egypt, Morocco and South Africa have each intimated to

Fifa that they are interesting in making bids to take the World Cup finals to the Afri-can continent for the first

They will face fierce Euro-

pean opposition from the 1966

hosts England, whose creden-tials have been boosted by the

success of Euro 96, and Ger-

many, who staged the finals in 1974. Argentina and Brazil

Speaking at a symposium in Munich, Blatter an-

nounced that he might be

ready to continue in his posi-tion at Fifa after 1998, the

year he had been expected to

retire.
"Everything depends on

who becomes the new presi-dent. If he thinks I can still be

useful I will stay, even if my

Sults

also plan to enter bios.

time in 2006.

A very down to earth question. The words 'American Express' are understood around the world. That's important if

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United back in pursuit of Nadal

lan Ross

ANCHESTER United's manager Alex Ferguson expects to learn this weekend whether his three-month pursuit of the Spain defender Miguel Nadal will succeed.
Only four weeks after Na-

dal's proposed \$2.4 million move from Barcelona to Old Trafford collapsed because of a wrangle over money, the deal is seemingly being

The 30-year-old Nadal was left out of the Barcelona side who faced Red Star Belgrade in the European Cup Win-ners' Cup on Thursday after telling his manager Bobby Robson that he was not in the mood to play. His exclusion meant he was not cup-tied. Speculation was rife in Spain yesterday that Nadal was, in fact, simply seeking to

self and Robson in the hope of being allowed to leave. Gerry Francis's Continentwide search for new players may see the Austrian national defender Anton Prefer join Tottenham next

week from Austria Vienna. Pfeffer, 31, who has 42 caps. said yesterday he had a "50–50" chance of joining Spurs while the Vienna club maintained they would not

stand in his way.

Peter Shilton's hopes of making his 997th League ap-pearance today were blocked when West Ham recalled the former England goalkeeper only eight minutes before he was due to complete a move to Cambridge.
Cambridge wanted Shilton.

47. to play at home to Roch-dale after losing Scott Barrett with injury. But the move was called off when West Ham's reserve goalkeeper Steve Mautone suffered a knock in training.

Steve Coppell has made his

first Manchester City signing, paying Arsenal £300,000 for Eddie McGoldrick, who had been on a month's loan at Maine Road. The versatile 31year-old player was also signed by Coppell during his time at Crystal Palace.

Terry Gibson has left Bar-net, less than a week after Terry Bullivant walked out as first-team coach. Gibson resigned after talks with the chairman Tony Kleanthous about his role under Alan Mullery, director of football.

Tragedy in Guatemala precipitates Fifa action on crowd security

No fences for France finals

been working for the last few weeks on dropping plans to have fences in place in

France. There was no fencing

at the European Champion-ship finals in England during

the summer, and no major

Guatemala's next qualifying match against Trinidad and

Tobago, originally scheduled

for next Friday, has been

postponed indefinitely, as has the aborted match against

"All other matches will

proceed as scheduled, includ-

ing a game between the United States and Guatemala in the United States on No-

man Andreas Herren.

Costa Rica.

RANCE, the host stadium disaster in World country, expect to be or dered by Fifa to remove Blatter said that Fifa had all perimeter fencing at the 1998 World Cup venues in response to the stadium tragedy in Guatemala on Wednesday in which 84 people died and at least 147 were injured.

"Fences are for animals and prisoners, not football crowd trouble was experi-fans," said Sepp Blatter, the enced inside the grounds. Fifa has confirmed that eral secretary, yesterday. "I believe that all the fences for the World Cup in France

should be taken down." Many of those who died were crushed against the chainlink fence separating the crowd from the pitch as an avalanche of fans fell across the rows of seats and down a flight of stairs at a World Cup qualifying match between Guatemala and vember 3," said Fifa's spokes-

Costa Rica. It was the worst widen the rift between him **TEAM SHEET**

call on Papis Futre, beck any, and Mars Rieper, who has any and Mars Rieper, who has been as a consensation but could be kept out by Keth Rowland while Plorin Raduciolis set to start alongside Hugo Portirlo, on an irom Sporting Liebon. Leleester have we Claradge (ankle) back after three was Claradge (ankle) back after three has but the midfielders Nell Lery Parker and Muzzy Izzer and the captain Stevenson

TOMORROW Liverpool v Evertor

Weith Galleapte tilu and a richad neckl hopes to play as Nowcastle aim to bounce back from their 3-2 Liefa Cup setback-egaingt Ferencyaros with revenge for the defeat by Manchester United last scason, Jordi Cruyfi is the only filmes worry for Alea Ferguson, who may recall Ryan Giggs jhamstrmot.



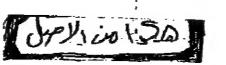
Performance of the week: Norwegian Johnsen United) whose subduing of Jay Jay Okocha helped turn the tide against Fenerbahce

A N Other

HIS NAME suggests a bit of a loner but he was the most gregarious of players as well as being one of Eng-land's better defenders. His career began wearily, be-came distinctly sheepish, and then suffered two blue periods before taking to the woods. Later he lorded it at the manor and after a spell in a white cap abroad he took up more serious milli-

nery at home.

Lost week: Mark Lawrenson (Preston, Brighton, Liverpoo and, as team manager, Oxford



Eubank flair

Kevin Mitchell finds the great eccentric coming back with weight on his mind

IKE Mr Bean wrestling | would stretch the combined with life's little challing imaginations of Roald Dahl

and wonderful man to its hotel he was staying, heart. Optimists in Eubank's Ronnie Davies, who has been Eubank's trainer for National Indoor Stadium to be nine years, says the enigma

Collins.

imaginations of Roald Dahl and Hunter S Thompson, he

has reinvented himself as "The Defuser", which, for a man with a lisp is asking for a

lot of faces to be kept straight.

As far as the fight goes Eu-bank ought not be detained long in dealing with Senor Barrera, three years older and the loser of his past four

engagements. He only started

boxing professionally at 27, as a welterweight, and is

regarded as such a peripheral figure here that the organis-

ers were not sure in which

has a bright future at light-heavyweight and has even talked of a third meeting in

that division with Steve

It was the Irishman's

strength and doggedness at 12st that persuaded a weight-drained Eubank to walk away

from boxing in September 1995 when he beat him for the

second time to keep the super-

middleweight title that Eu-bank had defended 19 times

over four and a half years.
"I had been telling him for

four years to move up to light-

heavyweight, but he wouldn't listen," Davies said yester-day. Even at 12st 61b he has to dry out to make the weight.

But he would love Collins to

move up to light-heavy. That would really motivate him."

That sensible judgment of course brings into question the viability of not only

tonight's bout but many

others in Eubank's career

Whatever he says about wanting respect for his many views, his matchmaking in

the past has shown scant regard for the roughest truth

of prize fighting: that a fight

should be a physical as much as a financial or theatrical

By his persistent denial of that verity, Eubank has short-

changed his public. In the laundromat of life, he is not

so much a lost sock as

sockless.

The Telford middleweight Richie Woodhall will have

history on his side against Keith Holmes in Maryland

tonight in the knowledge that

the two previous WBC cham-pions both lost their first

challenge.

for bizarre

in Cairo

lenges in a laundromat

Chris Eubank, one of

the great but misunderstood

comedians of our time, combines an indomitable spirit

with a sense of the ridiculous

in relaunching his boxing career in front of several thousand fascinated Egyp-

They have never seen profes-

sional boxing before; it is al-most certain they have never

experienced anything like Eu-bank. But there is no denying

that Cairo has taken this weird

filled to its 25,000 capacity (cheap seats £1, VIP ringside

2675) to see him fight the previ-ously almost invisible Argen-

Eubank, 30, whose linger

ing charisma has attracted a

score of package tourists.
complains of his British critics: "I had an image, I created that image — that of the showman — and that's all

they focus on." For a lighter who must concede that some

of his better performances in-clude those smoke-filled mo-

ments before he vaults into

the ring, this is a bit rich; and it is debatable whether he will be any richer once the arithmetic is done. Fighting for the first time

in a year against a 33-year-old opponent of monumental ob-

scurity. Eubank has attracted no live British television and

must rely for a financial

return on sponsorship and ticket sales. In addition he

has surrendered whatever

market value is normally

The Comeback".

squeezed from the concept of

This venture has been ridi-

culed across the board, from

Barry McGuigan to Barry Hearn; it will probably cost

Bubank a small fortune, as he

is also the co-promoter, but it will provide more material for

another bizarre episode in a

career that has been as much

an entertaining odyssey as a

sporting undertaking.

Holed up in the penthouse at the Nile Hilton, Eubank has a round-the-clock police

guard and is escorted through

Cairo's crowded streets in a

tinian Luis Denisio Barrera.

tians tonight.

Quardian Seturial India

Mark Adding

Manager (,

Total Comment

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Gar Dute Guardian control of Golf Ive face Brilliant Dicity Els pulls The Guardian control Golf Golf The Guardian control Golf Golf Treat off great escape

David Davies at Wentworth

N ONE of the classic confrontations, the proven thoroughbred, Ernie Els, beat one of this season's form horses, Steve Stricker, after being six down with only 16 to play in the second round of the Toyota World Match Play Championship yesterday.

Els, who won on the 38th hole, joins Gary Player and Sandy Lyle in the Houdini club, reserved for those who have achieved the seemingly impossible in this teams.

impossible in this tournament.
The South African won by
the relatively simple expedient of having seven birdies in his last 16 holes, while Stricker played that same

Hole by hole

Out 4 3 5 6 3 4 4 4 4 37 m 3 4 5 4 3 4 4 5 4 36

Els's achievement was at least as great a feat as that of his fellow countryman Player for, although the latter was seven down with 17 to play, it took him until the 37th hole finally to subdue Tony Lema back in 1965.

Lyle's win over Nick Faldo in 1982 is arguably the greatest of all these fantastic recoveries in that, though he was "only" six down with 17 to play, he actually won in the end by 2 and 1.

Afterwards Els was almost bemused by the fact of his win. "When we started again in the afternoon," he said, "I just wanted to get to the second nine. I didn't think I all over me in the morning."

In fact, he reversed the scores exactly, going round in 66 in the afternoon to match an's six une

Els might have been suffering from a slightly unorthodox preparation for the tournament. There have been social occasions with Ian Botham and Allan Lamb and on Thursday he played golf not at Wentworth but at Sunningdale, with Sean Connery wanted to watch the match in and Jackie Street I was big. not at wentworth but at Sharningdale, with Sean Connery and Jackie Stewart. It was his birthday, he didn't have a drink, but "I played today like of Jose Maria Olazabal, the owner-old Snaniard who has

needs to believe in himself more before he can compete

lieve I have weaknesses al-though I haven't shown them

He certainly put that right contend with 11 putts over the first nine holes from Els, but during that same time. Stricker was missing six greens.
The mind games had begun

as early as the 3rd, when Els chipped in for a winning birdle, continued at the 8th when he did it again, both times from 25 feet, and then the South African really rubbed it in at the 9th.

Having never even scented the fairway, he holed a 40ft par putt for a half, and the combined effect of the chips and the putts on Stricker was interesting. Els missed the green at the 10th and the American said to him: "Shall I give it to you or do you want to hit it?" The initiative and the momentum were now with Els.
He continued to play well,

squared at the 15th where he hit a six-iron second to four feet and won at the 18th, although not without alarms. Stricker hit his drive into a bunker, hit the lip with his recovery and then had to at-tempt to hit a green 238 yards

away with one foot in, the other out, of the sand.

The result was what Els called "one of the best shots I've ever seen in my life". He hit the green, but so did Els, in two, and two putts later the champion of the last two years had won his seventh successive match in this

Colin Montgomerie but the Scot rather surprisingly lost to Mark Brooks, the US PGA champion who had been two down with 11 to play. From there on, though, Brooks was seven under.

event

Vijay Singh beat the reign-ing US Open champion Steve Jones by 9 and 8 in a match in which the winner was approximately nine under.

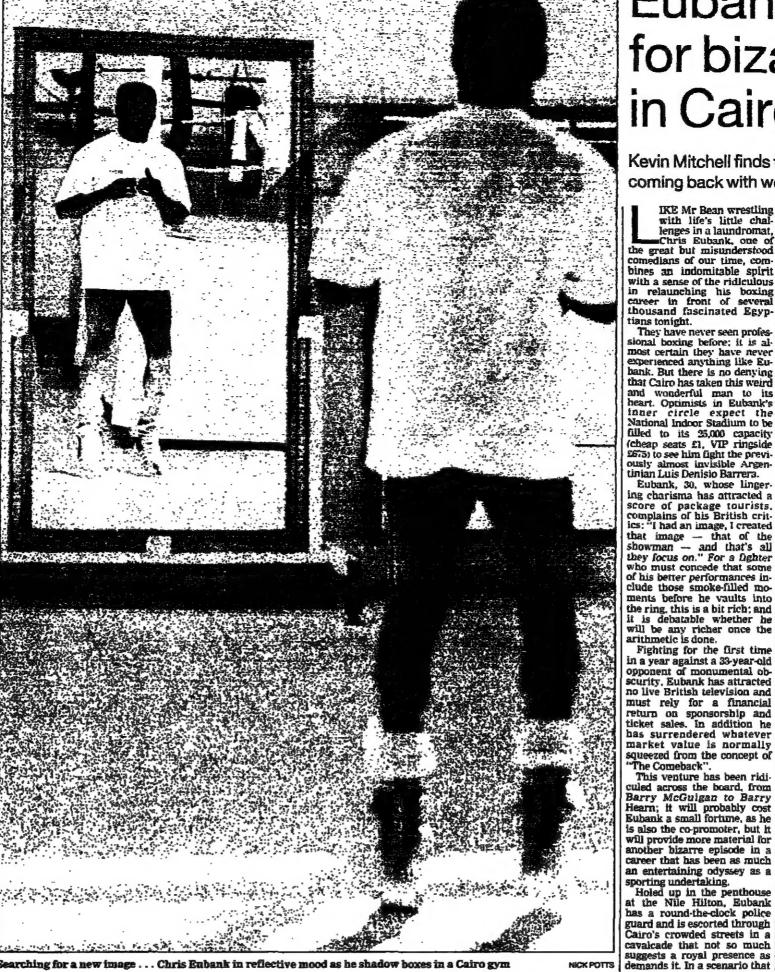
Jones has found it difficult

to come to terms with the de-mands of his celebrity, but his was not the worst margin of defeat in this championship since it started in 1964. had much of a chance. He was Roberto de Vicenzo lost by 10 and 8 to Arnold Palmer in 1966 and Tom Watson defeated Dale Hayes 11 and 9 in 1978.

the morning. Stricker, like beat Chip Beck by 9 and 8, Els had done in the morning, took 73 in the afternoon. talked about having gone through "the crucible of

I had a hangover, didn't I?"

The American probably been out of action for 13 months while having treat-ment for rheumatoid arthriat this level. Even before going in to lunch six up yesterday he repeated: "I still become back next February."



Searching for a new image . . . Chris Eubank in reflective mood as he shadow boxes in a Cairo gym

years, writes Leonard Barden. The Fide world champion comeback at the age of 39, resigned to Holland's Lock writes Robert Pryce. Byrd van Wely after 66 moves for could provide interim help at **England learn from Charman school**

lan McKenzle in Kuala Lumpur

Andy Beadsworth began the defence of his BT National Match Racing Championship with two wins over Cordelia ENGLAND will face Australia here in today's final of the Perrier women's world

against Carla Venter in the crucial second-string rubber.
Cassie Jackman, the Eng- crushed New Zealand's Philand No. 1, showed consistency against South Africa's world No. 11 Claire Nitch, tin-

lippa Beams 9-0, 9-4, 8-0. Martin's replacement at the top, Sarah Fitz-Gerald, plays at two today after seeing off South Africa in yesterday's second semi-final.

Linda Charman's drive and crisp volleying saw the Sussex woman refer to 2.

South Africa in yesterday's rubber 9-7, 9-5 against Angelique Clifton-Parks in only 17 minutes.

It is unlikely a lat two today after seeing off New Zealand's Sarah Cook 9-5, 9-4, 9-0. Carol Owens defeated Jade Wilson 9-5, 9-3.

"We know it will be an unhill hards with the control of th

Results

Rugby League

FRST TEST MATCH (Audition)
New Zeathend (2) 17, Grant British (10)
12, New Zeathend (2) 17, Grant British
Ridge 4, Drop gonit Ridge, Great British
Triess D Betts, Hurle, Goeles Goulding 2
(12,000).

Golf

A N Other

}

TONNIS

ATP CZECH OPEN (Ostrava): Guarriaeflaater 7 Heantens (GB) bt W Ferreire (SA)

8-4. 8-5: D Princedi (Ger) bt T Martin (US)

7-6. 7-6. 5-6. II Distract (Ger) bt T Martin (US)

7-6. 7-6. 5-6.

ATP TOULOUSE GRAND PRIDG Contenter (Ger)

8-1. 7-6; II Princedi (Ger) bt S (Ger)

9-1. 7-6; II Princedi (Ger)

10-1. 8-1; A Hother (Ger) bt S Farriai

10-1. 8-1; A Hother (Ger) bt S Farriai

10-1. 8-1; A Hother (Ger) bt E Farriai

10-1. 8-1; A Hother (Ger)

10-1. 9-1; Chiadrova (Ger)

10-1. 9-1; G-1. 5-7; G-4. S Select (Fr) bt D

10-1. 10-1; Ger)

10-1. 10-1;

Tennis

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Arsenal v Coventry ______ A Villa v Leeds _____ Chelses v Wimbledon ____ Middlesbrough v Totlenha Middlesbrough v Tottenha Notim Forest v Derby Shefl Wed v Blackburn

Sport in brief

Baseball

Apple tonight

Chess

The Atlanta Braves crushed

the St Louis Cardinals 15-0 on

CONT

CROWN BLATCES PLAY CHARREPOSSESSES

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WHERE BLATC

the St Louis Cardinals 15-0 on Thursday, becoming the first team to come back from 3-1 down to win the National League series. The Braves now go through to the World Series and meet the New York Yankees starting in the Big Apple tonight. 2006 Commonwealth Games and is expected to be joined by Wellington, Durban and Bridgetown. A decision will Anatoly Karpov, winner of a record 140 tournaments, is in danger of his worst result for Alton Byrd, the Crystal Palmeet in the quarter-final.

| Linda Charman's drive and minutes. It is unlikely the Australian will be so generous. The lians will be so generous. Anatoly Karpov, winner of a record 140 tournaments, is in Basketball

NATIONWIDE LEAR
First Division
Bradlord C v Barnsley .
Charton v Bolton .
C Palace v Swindon .
Grimsby v West Brom .
Huddersiteld v Southen .
Ipswich v Portsmouth .
Men C v Norwich .
Oldham v Reeding .
Stotte v Sheft Uid .
Wolverhampton v Port \
Tomograpsy

Tenmerre v QPR (1.0) ...

Quiz answers

1. (b) Alleged with-baster Paul

1. (c) Alloged with-baster Paul Gascolges.
2. (a) Referenced alcoholic/gambler/occiles addict and new separated Paul Merzon.
3. (c) Woundeling Mick Jegges, threatened with divorce by Jerry Hell.
4. Sir Jesses Goldensith's Referenders Party.
5. The Geners, under presents in call the Royal Paully's C10 million-a-year transport bill.
6. Action Wills geatherper Merk Resolch, on a disrepetate charge efter his Read ashate at Ditherham.
7. Lourdes Maria Ciccone Leon, Medosna's child.
8. Addit Hitler, felled artist, whose painting of a Viennese equare went teader the hastener at Brigg in Lincolnobles.
9. (c) Keanoth Brusseyh. Hellywood wants to out his Hamiet to a more "box-cooply" three hours.
10. General Alexander Lebed, sacked by Borfs Veltske after ranscars of a coop attempt.

his second loss of the 12-player event in Tilburg and lies eighth at half-way. Brit-

ain's Michael Adams drew and shares fourth place.

Melbourne has bid to host the

Athletics

Weekend fixtures | NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

Eglin in the first knockout round yesterday, writes Bob Fisher. Stuart Childerley did

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

point guard while Palace await the arrival of Paul

Grant, who played last s

Sailing

for a Baltimore university.

NATIONWIDE LEAG
Second Division
Brentord v Welsall
Bristol Rivrs v Blackpool
Burnley v Notis Co
Burney v Watford
Chesterfield v Crewe
Gillingham v Millwall
Luton v Peterborough
Plymouth v Bristol C
Preston v Shrewebury
Wrexham v Bournemout
Wycombe v Stockpart
York v Rotherham

York v Rotherham

PONTENS LEAGURE Second Divisions
Grinsby v Bradford.
AVOR INSURANCE COMMUNATION:
First Divisions Portsmouth v Tottenham
(2.0).

LEAGURE OF WALES: Aberysteryth v
Barry Tri: Commission Tri v Weishpool
(2.30); Casersws v Carmartien Tri. Comeas
Bey v British Ferry: Commorne Tri. Comeas
Bey v British Ferry: Commorne Sanger C,
Bobe Velle v Carwy (2.30); Filte Tri v
Newtown: Inter Cable-Tel v Connair's
Cusy: Laneantificals v Ton Pentre: Portimadog v Rityl.

BESH LEAGUR: Premier Divisions v Ards;
Linffield v Glansvon, Portadown v Cimoville, Priva Divisions Benger v Ballycians;
Carrick v Larne: Distillery v Graugh Tri;
Newty v Ballythina.

PAI MATIONAL LEAGUR: Premier Divlaions Derry C v Cork C; Home Farm
Everton v UCD (7.30, Temportens Bray
Wards v Shelbourne (3.18).

UEFA U-18 CHABINFORISHEP QUALLFESS Holland v Scodand (2.30); Lithusnia
v Wales (2.30).

Tranmere v QPR (1.0)

PEDBILATION BRIGHT W WORTHWAN LA STREET W Stockton; Cornell v Whichten; Donaton Fed v South Shields; Durhann C v Bedinghan Tay; Easington v Billingham Syr; Murben v Gudsborough; Seaharn R5 v RTM Newconite; Tow Law v Crook; West Auchland v Morpett; Whitby v Shidon.

MONTHUREN COUNTERS EASY LEAGUE Presider: Belger v Ashteid Unit; Denaby Und v Glasshoughton Welf; Hucknah Tn v Denett R1; Hatfleid Main v Hallem; Oseett Alb v Mattry MW. Ponteract Col v Armhorpe Welf; Selby Tn v Brigg Tn; Shelfleid v Armold Tn; Thatfleid v Murvaedge.

Sel COUNTERS LEAGUE (11.0); Plensh Arsensi v Gillingham; Charlon Ah v Mallivett; Chebiasa v Multavit; Southmat Lind v Ipswich. Second Brighton v Bremford, Totenham v Barme; Wycombe v Swhidon. Saga Second reseate Bournersouth v Briston Rving; Colchester Und v Lion Tn; Norwich C v L Oright; Oxford Und v Tatterham (10.30); Offer v C Pales (10 45); Southampton v Reseding; Westond v Portsmouth, Whypledon v West Ham (10.30).

11. Mark Tout, Britale's Olympic hebalolyh cirtus, betweet for life after he tested positive for enabelic steroids.

12. Channel 3, who amounteed the station's leanch is to be delayed for three months. When it does go at als, "hasteful erotics" will testare in the weekend schedules.

13. [c] Str CRF Richard, also Heelhellf.

14. [a] and [b]. Hadoutte was criticized for calling ber hely Lourdes. The Wattern withdrew support for Eleance charty gig because she once fore up a piotent of the Pope. In camment yet an "dry" Str CRF.

15. fillighall Gorbackery released a groose record called Happiness on which he ducts with wife Rakes Teny Botta a protest allows up which he devis with retired sactology preference Ray Baffer.

How you rate 0-4: It's All Over Now 5-9: Get Off My Cloud 10-14: You Cam't Almo

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE
Third Division
Barnel v Hartlepool
Cambridge Utd v Rochdale

Barnet v Hartlepool
Cambridge Utd v Rochdale
Carliste v Carditi
Chester v Exeter
Derlington v Mansileid
Doncaster v Brighton
Hereford v L Orient
Hull v Fulham
Lincoln v Scarborough
Northempton v Colchester
Swanses v Scunthorpe
Wigan v Torquay

Nicoloy

SCOTTISH LEAGUE Grange v Torbrar
W; Merzieshili v Inverieshii, MRN v Gordonlans; Watsoniars v Kolburne; Western v
Esin Univ. Tensorrewe Edin Univ v Menzieshili, Gordonans v Westerniars: Inverleth v Grange: Reiburne v MRM, Torbrax v
Western
NESSOMAL LEAGUESE Basic B Stortford
v Sudbury; Cambs C v Combs Univ. Colchester v Redbridge: Ipswich v Chulmotord; Peterboro v Deveham Milethaudis
Hampston v Kheisar, Harborne v Blossomfield: N Nota v Lough Stud; Nottingham v
Blossom, Otton v Coverthy NN. Neethe
Ben Rhydding v Tumperloy; Harrogate v
Benkers, Noston v Springhelds; Ramgarhia v Chester, Souttport v Norton; Swalwell v Formby. Bossite Aschoniar v Ramgarhia: Beckenham v Hampstead;
Farytem v Bournemout; Gora C v Astiord, Maldenhaud v Wicking; OK v T Wells;
O Whitgittians v Rajn Mycombe; Richmond
v Winchuster. Spencer v Wilmbledon, Wohingham v Chichester. Mieste Bath Buccs v
T Valie; Bristol Univ v Lan & Llan; Clevrdon v Swarses; Robinsons v Whitchurch;
WSM v Flyroouth.

West Virginian SCLUBB: Hampined v Ealing: Hampined v Ealing: Hampion v Redand: Horsham v Berleyheath: Leitester v Sherwood (12,30); Old Loughtonians v Harleston M.

Tomorrow

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Pression Disclore
Cannock v Hounstow (2.30. Hetherton);
East Grimstoad v Hewart (2.0); Guiddord v
Teddington (12.0); Old Loughrolians v
Surbiton (1.30. Leathorough Lane); Readtrg v Bartord T (2.0. Sonning), Southgate v
Casterbury (2.0), First Divisions Beeston
v Cutord Hawks (2.0, Highlields); Blueherse
v Outord Univ (2.30); Southwille v Sheffield
(2.30, King Edwards GS); Brooklands v St
Alberts (2.0); Crity of Portsmouth v Stouport (1.30); Crostys v Trojans (1.3); Doncaster v Warrington (2.0); Edgbaston v
Harisaton M (2.30); Frebrands v Glos C
(1.0); Hull v Ista (2.0); Indian Gym v Lewel
(2.30). SCOUNTS REPRESENTATIVE (Bisham): England U-26 Training Squad v Slough (2-30).

WOMEN'S CLUBS: Exmouth v Davon U-21 Man.

Hearts v Celtic ...

Rugby Union

Raughy Union

REMERIES CUP: Pool As Pontypridd v

Bath (2:30). Termerrees: Das v Edinburgh
(1:30). Bt. Letcester v Scottish Borders;
Lanelli v Pou (2:30). Ch Harlequin v

Neam. Termerrees: Caddorfis Borders;
Lanelli v Pou (2:30). Ch Harlequin v

(McDiarmol Ph). Bu Mursen v Wasspr (Thomond Ph. Limenta); Toulouse v Cardot.

EUROPEAN CORFERENCES

Britde v Romer (3:30); Canter of Preprocessor (3:30); Sale v Newport. Poel

B Sridgend v Dinamo Bucharess (2:30);
Beristot v Nartonne (7:30); Canter a Vireorthy (7:50) Poel Ct Cannacht v Northampton (3:30); Cortel v Toulon. Person

In 1:30); Poel Ct Cannacht v Northampton (3:30); Cortel v Toulon. Person

In 3:30; Sourgou'n Velbe (2:0); Swan1:30; Bourgou'n Velbe (2:0); Swan1:30; Bourgou'n Velbe (3:0); Swan1:30; Bourgou'n Velbers velbers

Third Division

Allog v Montrose
Cowdenbeath v Inverness CT
East Suring v Queen's Park
Forlar v Albion Ross County v Arbroath ____

First Division
Andrie v Stirling
Clydebank v Gr Morton
Dundee v Parick
Falkirk v St Johnstone

Si Mirren v East File

Second Division

Rugby League
MATIONAL COMPERENCE LEAGUE
(2.30). Preside Divisions Hewarth & Egramont; Saddleworth v Oldham St Annes Tomorrow

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: BARLA GE Britain y Australian Aborigina (2.30 Sallord). Boskotball

BROWEISER LEADUR Birmingham v Crystal Pelece (7:30, Aston Villa LC). Ho-mai v Leopards (7:30), Temperows Shef-field v Derby (7:15), London Towers v Chester (6:0) Ice Hockey

Ice Hockey
SUPERLEAGUE Basingstoke v Manchester (6.30): Notlingham v Ayr (7.0):
Sheffield v Bracknell (7.0), Tensorrows
Ayr v Cardiff (5.30): Bracknell v Newcastle
(6.0): Manchestor v Nottingham (6.0)
PREMICES LEAGUES Slough v Guidford
(6.30). Solihull v Poterbornugh (5.30): Swindon v kingston (5.30): Teltori v Medway (7.30) Tensorrows Guildford v Tellord
(6.0), kingston v Slough (6.45): Madway v Solikull (5.35): Peterbornugh v Swindon
(5.30). Morthern Premier LEAGUE: Castletomorrows: Print v Castlerago (6.30), Pelsloy v Dumities (6.30), Whitley v Murrayfield (6.30).

1996-7 Season

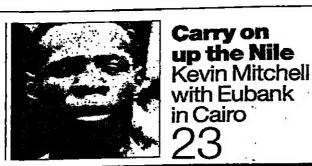
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Hail to the Chief Wimbledon's striker on life near the top





Gascoigne admits to being a disgrace

Patrick Glenn

AUL GASCOIGNE yesterday admitted to bringing disgrace upon himself but promised: "I'm going to stand up for myself, come back stronger and do my best for

Rangers."
As calls for his sacking by the club over alleged wife-beating and his on-field misbehaviour multiplied the erratic England midfielder decided to conduct his own defence. Reporters who assembled at Ibrox for the weekly pre-match rituals ager Walter Smith said Gas-coigne "wanted to unburden

Smith had already hinted that Gascoigne would play for Rangers in this afternoon's Premier Division match at home to Aberdeen. "Tve had a talk with him and he seems all right about things," he said, "but I'll make a final dewhether it is best for him to

play."
It was then the turn of Gascoigne, accompanied by the
assistant manager Archie Knox, to offer his apologies and regrets. "First of all, about what happened the other night," he said of his dismissal against Ajax in the Champions League match in Amsterdam. "I'm a disgrace to myself and I've let down the manager, the chairman, the players, the staff and the

pporters. 'After I was sent off against Borussia Dortmund last year I said it wouldn't happen again." With a nod in the direction of the claims that he added: "I think I took my domestic problem into the Ajax "I know there have been stories about me wanting to leave here and others saying I would be sacked. It would be would be sacked. If would be easy to walk away, but I'm not going to do that.
"I deeply regret what has happened in the last 48 hours,

but I came back stronger from Dortmund and I want to do the same again. Football is my life and I want to stand up rather than walk away. I'm going to face up to everything and do my best for this club." It was difficult to escape the

impression that Gascoigne's recitation was merely a vocal exercise rather than the offspring of deep-rooted remorse and there will be further trials for the midfielder, starting with today's collision with Aberdeen. This is the fixture in which Gascoigne's part in a series of incidents led to his being disciplined by the Scottish FA last season.

The recording of the events showed that he was guilty of several offences, any one of which would have merited a red card. Yet he was not so much as cautioned and the SFA had to rely on the report from their refereeing supervi-sor to nail Gascoigne. He was given the equiva-

lent of an ordering-off, served a one-match suspension and a one-march suspension and had disciplinary points added to his record. The referee that day, John Rowbotham, was unofficially criticised by the authorities and has since taken charge of relatively minor matches — until now. Guess who is in charge at (brox this afternoon.

Rangers need Gascoigne to give a convincing performance as the champions prefaced the midweek embarrass ment in Amsterdam with season against Hibernian last Saturday and now have only a two-point lead over Celtic.



Remote control threatens old board game



David Lacey

thought has refused to go away. And it is not along the M90 by a slow-mov-ing posse of police cars while his fans yell "Go, go Gazza!"

from the bridges. No, the image that lingers dully in the mind's eye is of Mark McCormack sitting in the front row of the directors' box at Old Trafford as the new owner of Manchester United. Impossible? Maybe, but Mc-Cormack's International Mar agement Group is one of the five companies being dis-cussed as likely bidders

should United decide to sell. Not that there is any per-sonal animosity towards Mr many a golf ball would never have been quite so successfully plinked nor tennis ball plonked. Doubtless Mr Mc-Cormack is imbued with that generosity of spirit for which the American legal profession is renowned. It is just that mere mention of IMG in connection with the ownership of England's richest club is a worrying indication of where the game may be heading.

Until recently, business wise, football was small beer. Its teams hogged the headlines and its managers were accorded the importance of cabinet ministers, but even at the highest levels the turnovers compared poorly to the local Marks and Sparks. Then came Hillsborough,

followed by the Taylor Report and the Premier League. The Premier League begat the tele rision agreement with Sky, which is now worth 60 times the amount BBC and ITV were paying less than 10 years ago, and pay-per-view, the biggest windfall of all, is just around the corner.

No wonder mere mention of the possibility that Manches-ter United may eventually be up for sale has led to specula-tion that IMG might be inter-ested. And not only IMG but,

bread, United News, and Michael Grade's VCL Denials abound and nothing may happen, but with Leeds
United — who once had an arLord Mayor as chairman—
now owned by City slickers

and Nottingham Forest, the last club to be run by a com-mittee rather than a board. looking as if they may go the same way, it is clear that the real money is scenting huge So what is wrong with that? Surely, to compete with the best in Europe, the English game needs a Berhisconi or two. Better a McCormack or a

Grade in charge of Manches-

ter United than a corrupt fug-gler of figures, Robert Max-well, or a romantic juggler of footballs, Michael Knighton. The danger is that when football ownership acquires the remoteness of the international corporations a loss of touch, with a club and its tra-ditions, with the fans, with a feeling for the game, is mev-itable. It may be apocrypbal but the story of one of Leeds's

new owners asking Eddie Gray if he once played for the club has gone the rounds. Yet given the likely impact on the game of of digital telsvi-sion and pay-per-view, with clubs effectively becoming their own TV soaps, the days of the traditional boardroom made up of local worthies and ing a strong sense of commu-nity are surely numbered.

OCAL empire builders like Sir John Hall at Newcastle there will always be, but not in any great number. The Jack Walk-ers will become even rarer. Increasingly clubs will have to turn to mega-rich consor-tiums simply to keep up and stay up.

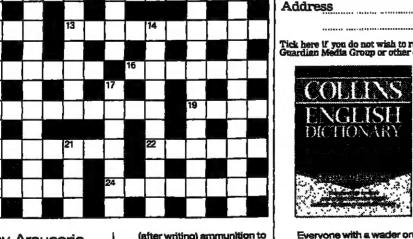
Newcastle United are now leading the Premiership while Walker's Blackburn Rovers are struggling at the bottom. Walker's boyhood love of Blackburn persuaded him to pour millions into the club and inflate a transfer market which Newcastle, by signing Alan Shearer for £15 million, promptly blew up in Ewood Park's face.

No amount of cash will buy continuity, as Blackburn are discovering. That takes good management. It also requires patience from the club owners, and patience is not something with which those now moving into the game are traditionally blessed.

Guardian COMMAN Prize Crossword No 20,788

A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,788, P.O. Box 315, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 2AX, by first post on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday October 28. Name

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Set by Araucaria

8 Upper class removed from

- le improperly lent to petty 9 Austrian composer: if I
- substitute the previous letter, Norman writer (6) 10 Leading fixer (6)
- 11,12 Poem first goes to hell and only returns in one piece (8,4) 13 Treat a vice differently to get
- going again (10) 15 An author of 6 in no hurry (7) 16 A musical group on leave (7)

18 Plant (like Chopin?) giving

- (after writing) ammunition to small boy (10) 19 A lot of current tents (4) 20 African to tear off into
- 22 Traveller finds gold, returning with a lot (6) 23 Be next to a Democrat and

Ireland (8)

24 Supplier of perfume for English duke and Mrs. Turner (4-4) <u>Down</u> 1 After a little cake, Miss Dunstable is Patience or

2 Never still trying to achieve it mechanically? (9,6)

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has to (10)

true (7)

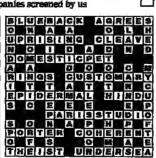
4 Turning out unfinished

5 He has a rule: he takes up

6 Single climber to arrive in a

ancient poetry (4)

ends with 11 (3,6,6)



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- Queen, a pediar of thrills 14 Banned batsman's a mind to be impressed (6,4)
- 17 Sound set give me a bell

21 The eagle of the lough (4)

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Els a-poppin'

Ernie Els refused to throw in the towel yesterday in the Toyota World Match Play championship he has won for the past two years when the Burmah Road course at Wentworth marvelled at one of the great comebacks in golf. Six holes down to the American Steve Stickler at lunch, the South African made a remarkable recovery to win on the final green and secure a semi-final meeting with Mark Brooks, the US PGA champion, who knocked out Colin Montgomerie. Only Gary Player has hit back harder in the event's history; seven down after 19 to Tony Lema in 1965, Player won at the first extra hole. David Davies, page 23

Sugar to quit if blueprint flops Martin Thorpe on the three-year deadline | pointment like Klinsmann to | get behind the team now. learn." The brilliant German | "What about getting behind set by the chairman to prove his practical

theories can rekindle Spurs' glory days

proves a flop. The club's chairman is under increasing fire from supporters for refusing to join the trend of splashing out on big-name, big-money players, especially foreigners. But Sugar is pre-pared to keep those fans frustrated.

"My personal target is three years, to win the championship or at least be in Europe and challenging for the title regularly," he said. "I want to demonstrate that this club can reach a great status without irresponsible dealings in the transfer market. If I'm wrong, in three

LAN SUGAR has promised to quit Tottenham in three years if his policy of prudence over extravacome and sort things out that are wrong."

Supporters were particu-larly critical when the club's recent announcement of a £12 million profit coincided with some uninsipiring performances by Gerry Francis's struggling side.

But, while Sugar has made about £10 million available

for new players, he refuses to follow the spending sprees of clubs such as Newcastle and Middlesbrough.

Of these type of chairmen, Sugar said: "One side of them knows it's completely wrong, the other side is seduced by the glitz. They are going to have to go through a disap-

striker left half-way through a two-year contract.
And Sugar has this word

clamouring for big signings:
"They are like my kids were when they were young they all want a racing car now. Well, they can't have it. Every sensible fan doesn't spend more than they've got in their own life. Why can't they understand it at Spurs?" The chairman says that

having sorted out Tottenham's finances, his next tar-get is to "have a team that's not been bought in the close season; to build a team that's got depth and strategy and to build it with a selection of players people maybe never heard of, to nurture them, build them up, teach them a strategy. I am not going out to buy a team, a superficial team that is just going to give you a bit of glitz for six weeks." So, he is imploring fans to

lion of his money in."

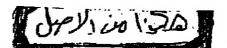
"What about getting behind what we've got. If the man-ager and chairman say that, then get behind what we've got. Not, 'you're a bunch of for the Spurs supporters, wankers and we're just waiting for a new chairman to bring in players before we will get behind them. If they're disappointed, tough luck. If my strategy's wrong, then bring in the next person and let him pour £60-70 mil-

> But with soccer finances having grown dramatically in his time at the club, he asked: "The point is: who is this Mr.
> X in future? Five years ago I
> was a successful businessman
> with a share-market valuation of £400 million or whatever it was. Then football was about a fling of £3 or £4 million which isn't the end of the world if you lose it. But now we're talking a completely different ball game as seen in Newcastle with their £45 mil-

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